

UUFM Board Agenda Minutes
August 5, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

Present:

Bob Finley, President
Todd Schweim, Vice President
Liz Kipp, Treasurer
Mae Gagnon, Secretary
Cheiron McMahill, Member at Large
Kathryn Vonderharr, Member at Large
Deb Fitzloff, Member at Large
Penny Herickhoff, President – ex officio

Moment of silence in honor of member Jean Lovett's recent passing.

Chalice Lighting: “We are a welcoming people of diverse beliefs who commit to nourish the spirit, broaden the mind, nurture the earth, and build community. May this flame we kindle remind us to strive, today and every day, to love beyond belief.”

Welcome/Check-in: Each person shared something that they are “looking forward to”. (No guests/visitors were present during this meeting.)

Review of agenda for additions/revisions: A new action item was added to the agenda regarding a recommendation raised by the Committee of Shared Ministry (CSM).

Vote on the Consent Agenda: Items in the Consent Agenda included July Board Minutes, Treasurer’s Report, Attendance Report, Personnel Committee Minutes, and Finance Committee Minutes. No Ministry Report was present in the Consent Agenda folder. A “2nd Level Re-opening Issues” document was also included in the agenda.

Deb moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Mae seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Switch to Spectrum internet service completed!
- Tent installation on west side of building is imminent.
- Video technology upgrades are yet to be completed but equipment is secured.

REPORTS

- Rita’s “Ministry Highlights” were briefly reviewed by Bob.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- **Consider establishment of an anonymous feedback mechanism for members that are uncomfortable with more direct forms of communication**
 - There may be power dynamics to consider between new members/friends contributing their ideas and members/friends who have been affiliated with UUFM for longer
 - It was brought up that a feedback form could be setup as part of the website
 - The electronic form could function more as a “suggestion box” for members/friends to share ideas specifically for the Board’s benefit
 - Showing faces and being present would be “more effective” communication for some and allow board members to be better known
 - The use of “town meeting” style exchanges could disseminate information and learn what is on members’ minds perhaps quarterly to know
 - Multiple ways to collect ideas/feedback is likely best

- **Consider starting a Membership Growth Task Force**
 - It was stated that a “Membership Growth Task Force” should be a single-minded group dedicated to recruiting new members and focused on how to go about properly advertising/marketing to make it happen.
 - Growing a congregation and including younger members is not a struggle unique to UUFM – there are resources available
 - The Executive Team needs to be included in this discussion to form a task force, and it was recommended that the people who are on the task force have advertising/marketing expertise.

- Several Board members suggested setting aside time at each Board meeting for a discussion/review of a selected section of the “Governance & Ministry”

- Penny highly recommended MidAmerica Region’s [“Future Change Framework”](#) workshop offered this Saturday, August 7.

- The Board retreat is scheduled for August 28th.

-- The meeting closed for an Executive Session and then reconvened to the regular Board meeting --

ACTION ITEMS

Committee of Shared Ministry recommendation: Per CSM’s recommendation, the Board moves to accept a particular member’s decision to no longer be an active member of the UUFM.

Todd moved to approve the motion and Liz seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion passed.

Re-opening policy: To be discussed further at a future meeting.

Todd motioned to adjourn, and Liz seconded. The meeting ended at 8:11 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, September 2, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.