

Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Board Meeting Minutes
January 17,2019

Present: Reverend Pam Phillips (Ex- officio), Steve Keighton (President-Elect), Dan Kominsky (Member-at-Large), Amy Pruden- Bachi (Member-at-Large), Irene Peterson (Secretary)

Absent: Sandy Power, (Treasurer), Ellen Plummer (President)

Chalice Lighting and Check-In: The chalice was lit. Check in was held.

Reading: Dan did the reading.

Review and Accept Agenda – The following will be added to New Business on the agenda: statement of conscious, accepting monetary gift, approval of new board member and approval of new member of Committee on Ministry.

Member Forum- no member present

Consent Agenda – Consent Agenda was accepted and approved

Minister's monthly report

DLFD monthly report

Administrator's report

Minutes of December 2018 Executive Board Meeting

Treasurer's update and report – Sandy was not present to give the treasurers report. There were two questions about line items in the budget. Although Sandy was absent from the meeting, she was able to resolve the issues via email during the meeting.

Old Business

Long Range Planning: Holy Conversations-A good discussion was held regarding the important takeaways from the first three chapters of the book. Pam facilitated the discussion with a Powerpoint presentation of some of the main issues. General thoughts were expressed about how the information in the book applies to the strategic planning we are hoping to embark on. We will read chapters 4,5 and 6 before our next board meeting.

Nominees for Board members. Update status. Nancy Norton has agreed to serve on the board as an at-large member to fill the current vacancy. This position will last through FY2020. The board approved her nomination unanimously. Pam will contact Nancy and inform her of her appointment to the board.

Update on Environmental Justice committee conversation- see minister's report

Update on safety and security proposal (Karen Hager)- Pam will talk with Dick Luke about getting swing bar door guards for the doors.

Review board goals- Board members will be sent the potential board goals in advance of the meeting for review. The board will be working on prioritizing the goals in our February meeting.

New Business

Committee on Ministry member – Korey Mercier was approved to fill a vacant at-large position on the Committee on Ministry. Pam will notify Korey and the committee of the approval.

Budget call timeline (tied with Stewardship timeline)- We will move this to the February meeting. Pam will ask Finance committee what their timeline is for turning in requests for budget drafts.

Long range planning/possibilities- This will be discussed at a later time.

Monetary gift acceptance- An anonymous, unrestricted gift of \$10,000 was given for which the board is extremely grateful. The board approved to accept the gift and will send a note of appreciation to the donor via the bookkeeper.

Voting on statement of conscious- UU congregations were asked to vote on whether this issue should be added to the UUA 2019 General Assembly agenda. The board approved putting in the statement of conscience and including individual congregants' comments.

Upcoming

Spring initiatives

Sending folks to GA in June – re-allocating funds to help pay for trip expense

Next meeting – February 14

Reading will be done by Steve

Meeting adjourned 9:13 PM

Respectfully submitted by Irene Peterson

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Agenda
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Chalice Lighting and Check-In:

Reading: Ellen will provide reading

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Treasurer's update and report

Old Business

Long Range Planning: Holy Conversations

Nominees for Board members. Update status.

Update on Environmental Justice committee conversation- see minister's report

Update on safety and security proposal (Karen Hager)

Review board goals

New Business

Long range planning/possibilities

Budget call timeline (tied with Stewardship timeline)

Committee on Ministry vote member, and Board Member at large

Vote to accept monetary gift

Upcoming

Spring initiatives

Sending folks to GA in June – re-allocating funds to help pay for trip expense

3rd Sunday new to UU –January 20 is Amy

January 2019 Minister's Report to the Board
Submitted by Rev. Pam Philips

Leads Worship

December's worship theme was Mystery. Highlights included a well-attended Solstice service incorporating walking the Solstice Spiral created by the Earth Spirit Sisters, Victoria Taylor sharing some of her earth-based practices, and a ritual with flash paper. Our multi-generational service, which Hayden Catlett helped plan, on the 23rd included Mystery Bingo (with prizes) and an element of mystery in our order of service, which people seemed to enjoy. The Christmas Eve service was well-attended and included several voices (worship associate Ellen Plummer and readers Hayden Catlett, Ally DeHuff, Kimberley Homer, Kristine Reid, Jamie McReynolds) and music by Brian Peters and his vibraphone. We had a guest preacher on the last Sunday of the month, Elizabeth Ide from Charlottesville.

January's theme is Possibility. Sadly, there is a possibility of snow this weekend, so we may have to cancel services. If we do, I plan to reschedule it for February as it will include an opportunity for members of the congregation to share their hopes and dreams for UUC. The information we gather in this service should prove useful to the board as we start a conversation about our plans for the future.

Officiates Rites of Passage

We haven't had any rites of passage since my last board report.

Provides Pastoral Care and Presence

I continue to visit with congregants in my office and at the hospital. I've been really pleased that congregants have alerted me to people who have pastoral needs, giving me the opportunity to reach out to them. The Lay Pastoral Care Ministry has seen a transition in leadership, with Frank DuPont stepping down and Jennifer Mercier stepping into the co-chair role.

Encourages Spiritual Development

I met with the Soul Matters small group ministry facilitators. We have 8 groups, most with co-facilitators. One group which meets in Radford on a Wednesday night is looking for more members. The facilitators shared their experiences and did some problem-solving, and overall the program seems to be going well.

Witnesses to Social Justice in the Public Square

The holidays pretty much took up the last month, but I look forward to attending the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy "Day for All People" in Richmond on the 22nd of January. This is an annual opportunity to meet with other people of faith, learn about issues in front of the General Assembly, and meet with our legislators to advocate. The group of congregants who met to discuss the Congregational Study/Action Issue of the Corruption of Democracy attended an evening meeting with Delegate Chris Hurst in December to learn about some of the issues that the General Assembly will be addressing. This meeting was attended by some people who are not part of the UUC community.

I've been attending facilitator training for the upcoming Dialogue on Race winter summit.

Leads Administration

I was grateful to accept a \$10,000 anonymous unrestricted donation on behalf of the congregation in December. The board will need to vote to accept this generous gift.

As I prepare the staffing budget request, I'm mindful that we will have to consider the financial consequences of the director of lifespan development being on sabbatical from January to June of 2020. Also, the UUA has updated their staff salary recommendations. I'm grateful that the congregational administrator has decided to postpone her retirement until at least June of 2020, so we'll have more time to prepare.

The stewardship committee is well-underway in their planning for this year's pledge drive. I'm excited that we will be trying to "front-end load" the process by getting pledges early. The committee has some exciting ideas about using photographs to build enthusiasm.

I purchased copies of *Sacred Conversations* for board members to help us as we embark on long-range planning.

I've been concerned about finding lights on and thermostats turned up when I enter the empty building. As we consider solar panels for the roof, we should not forget more low-tech but equally important ways to live sustainably by turning off lights and turning down the heat.

Dan Kominsky and I met with a sub-group of members of the Environmental Justice Team to talk about their hope to install solar panels at UUC. They told us about different ways we might be able to finance such a project. We talked with them about the board's commitment to have a broader conversation with the congregation about long range plans, which can include a consideration of solar panels.

Pursues Personal Renewal and Professional Development

We did enjoy the Military Bowl in Annapolis, despite the Hokies losing the game. The ministers group (VACUUM) decided to have a ZOOM meeting in December given all the demands on our time during the holidays, and it was good to find that an electronic meeting was a satisfying way to stay connected with my colleagues. My monthly Soul Matters brainstorming and discernment circle sessions also provide opportunities for connection and renewal.

Serves the Larger Unitarian Universalist Faith

The ordination I was going to participate in this weekend is being rescheduled to the last Sunday in January.

To help the board as they vote on whether or not to put the Statement of Conscience on the agenda for this year's General Assembly (see the administrator's report), I have sent a query out to UUC members who attended the Adult Faith Development sessions on the Congregational Study Action Issue of the Corruption of Democracy. I will share their responses before the board meeting.

Administrator's Report to the Board December 13, 2018

Annual Certification of Membership, Financial Info, etc. to UUA:

I'll be submitting our certification to the UUA by Feb. 1 including membership number, leadership info, financials including income and expenses and pledge total, and attendance info along with a questionnaire on diversity of membership, staff, and board. The certification also includes a congregational poll for a Draft Statement of Conscience (SOC) to appear on the 2019 General Assembly Final Agenda. In the past, the Board has voted on this representing the entire congregation.

The UUA bylaws require a minimum of 25% of certified congregations to participate in the ballot vote on whether the Draft SOC should be placed on the Final Agenda. **Should the draft Statement of Conscience entitled "Democracy Uncorrupted" be placed on the final agenda of the 2019 General Assembly? UUC may vote Yes, No, or Abstain.**

- Yes means UUC wants the draft Statement of Conscience to be added to the 2019 General Assembly Agenda.
- No means UUC does not want the draft Statement of Conscience to be added to the 2019 General Assembly Agenda.
- Abstain means UUC is participating only to contribute to the necessary 25% quorum.
- Congregations that do not wish to participate in the poll at all can opt out. To view the complete text of the draft Statement of Conscience, go online to uaa.org/statements/current. Be aware that comments and suggestions on the wording of the Draft SOC are invited by February 1, 2019 through the Comment Submission Form: <https://goo.gl/forms/4D2QqpZYrkLincb23>. Please base your vote here on whether your congregation, or its representatives, believes the Draft SOC is worded well enough to be considered by the General Assembly. It can be further refined by congregational comment before and during the 2019 General Assembly.

½ Plate Update: As an FYI – from January-December 2018, UUC donated \$13,586 via the ½ plate collection and added \$10,999 to our income as our share. The difference is due to several donors designating their checks as 100% for the recipient.

Change in Retirement Plans: If you had heard that my original plan was to retire at the end of 2019, I have now reconsidered and will work at least through June 2020. Prior to that time, I will inform the Board of my plans. Therefore, this will not affect the budget for the upcoming FY.

Attendance/Members: See online Google Doc.

Stewardship Committee: I attended the meeting on January 6.

Annual Tax Letters with Donations for 2018: Will be emailed within the next few days to all who donated to UUC in 2018.

Change in Office Hours: My office hours are now Mondays & Fridays, 1-4 PM.

DLFD Report to the Board – January 2019

Submitted by Karen Hager, Director of Lifespan Faith Development

Registration

- CYRE: 122
- LFD Activity Slots: 159
- UUC Activity Slots: 174

Registration is up 7% over this time last year.

This Month

- YRUU continues offering tech help, their auction donation this year. Two snow days have delayed completion of this task, which will continue into February.
- America Inside Out with Katie Couric continues to be well attended with 18-25 people coming each month. The series continues this month with an episode on gender inequality.
- K-1 and 4-5 OWL begins January 27. 8 children are currently registered for K-1 OWL; 10 children are registered for 4-5 OWL. A short-term covenant group for parents of kids registered in 4-5 OWL has also been formed and will meet monthly, facilitated by Jennifer Mercier. We are once again requesting a voluntary \$25 activity fee for this class.
- A discussion group on the UUA Common Read “Justice on Earth” continues this month, concluding in February.
- We had a great turnout for our JEOPARDY! night to benefit YRUU’s Trip Fund and raised \$250 in donations. We will hold an online fundraiser during the month of February.
- Spring teacher recruitment concluded before Christmas. Spring teacher training is January 19. Of our 22 teachers, 6 are brand new, 14 are returning from fall, and 2 are returning from teaching in previous years. We have a recruitment record that would be envied by any UU congregation!
- I am taking a Renaissance Module on the Philosophy of RE. The class meets online for five weeks, through February 5.

Upcoming Dates

- 1/19: Spring CRE teacher training
- 1/20: Common Read discussion group
- 1/27: K-1 / 4-5 OWL Orientation
- 1/28: America Inside Out
- 2/1: Social Justice Film Series