

UUC Board Meeting Minutes

Date: February 13, 2020

Approved: March 12, 2020

In attendance: Pam Philips (ex-officio), Steve Keighton (president), Wayne Neu (president-elect), Sandy Powers (treasurer), Nancy Norton and Nancy Bodenhorn (secretary).

Not in attendance: Dan Kominsky, David Hundley

Chalice Lighting, Reading (Steve Keighton)

Check-in

Review and Accept Agenda Add new business regarding Art Benediction sculpture

Member Forum No members attended.

Approve Consent Agenda: Approved unanimously

Minister's Report

Administrator's Report

DLFD's Report – commented on notes from DLFD on encouraging to attend the coffeehouse, Chris Hurst, and GA.

Previous Meeting Minutes – **Added vote** taken in late January via email to pay from the UUC checking account into the TIAA accounts for Lisa Evanylo and Karen Hager what has been calculated to be the missed payments and earnings through a date to be determined that is as soon as possible. Action taken: Payment was made on February 7.

Treasurer's Report

Funds totaling \$49,316.80 have been paid to Lisa Evanylo and Karen Hager's TIAA accounts. Checking account is still in good shape to cover anticipated expenses through the year with expected anticipated deposits. Question about the rental income and a few other income lines, which is reported differently in different files. Quickbooks had not updated some of the lines for a few weeks. Sandy will check with the bookkeepers to ensure the accuracy of the reports. Summit will be planned in April with finance committee and Board representatives.

Old Business:

- Retirement plan: discussion/decision on strategy to pay back checking account withdrawal. The board had previously voted electronically to pay the past due retirement funds from the checking account. Payment has been submitted. Very few congregants have had comments or questions in the situations offered, most of which has been positive and expressing willingness to support. Potential exists that some members are willing to make a one-time donation. Concern about how and when to ask for additional donations while we are in pledge drive.

Idea of having a 'retirement' party to celebrate Lisa and Karen, which could build community and raise funds. Committee will be formed to organize. Trustees have been specifically communicated with about the issues involved.

- Budget 20-21 has been published for the stewardship campaign. The impact of the retirement fund obligations was not included in the published budget due to the timing of preparing the budget and discovery of the retirement obligation.
- Continued discussion of policy review. Continuing to work through the policy review. Nancy N., Steve and Ellen Plummer will meet next week to discuss the continuation of review and make a plan for completing the process.
- Discussion/approval of draft congregational public witness policy. Discussion of the draft, some have added notes in google and others have on paper and should add to Google by at least one week prior to next meeting so Nancy N. can make a new draft or bring unresolved issues back to Board. Suggest that we might add a council on Social Justice/Social Witness that could take the lead on the decisions and suggestions that would be forwarded to the Board. Discussion about the pros and cons of individual groups within the congregation making public statements representing their group. Draft will also be sent to the Environmental Justice team and the Anti-Racism discussion group for their input.
- Strategic planning update – The Strategic Planning committee kicked off in January and we will request an update for March or April meeting.
- Committee on Ministries membership – Patrick Feucht and Joyce Graham have agreed to serve on the COM. Board voted unanimously to accept Patrick and Joyce as members of the COM.

New Business:

- Status of search for new Administrator. Pam has developed a timeline for tasks to be completed to prepare for Lisa's retirement and begin the process of replacement with a goal of May.
- Feb 22 (???) Board Game Night with the Board (who can attend and refreshments). We will be rescheduling the game night when Elarth is available. Nancy B. will contact the Board members and the people who signed up for the event, and readvertise for the new date.
- Trustee members – Arthur Cennamo is stepping down, we need to replace in June. Dan Brown and Judy Snoke are trustees as well. LDC will be asked to suggest names.
- Discussion on policy for animals in the building – will be discussed next month.
- Benediction Project – sculpture loan to UUC for 40 days. Discussion began about the opportunity to exhibit the sculpture, discussion and vote will continue via email. Grounds Committee chairs are supportive of the project.

May 31 will be Congregational Meeting and May 17 will be Informational meeting.

Upcoming:

Newsletter article - Steve

March Meeting Reading – Wayne

Chat with the Board at Potluck – March 8. Steve and Wayne.

Newcomers Orientation Saturday May 9 from 9:00 – 12:00 – Nancy Bodenhorn

Next Board Meeting: March 12 (VT spring break – Nancy B available by Zoom)

Adjourn at 9:15

February 2020 Minister's Report to the Board
Submitted by Rev. Pam Philips

I am grateful and happy to have received my second renewal of preliminary fellowship from the Ministerial Fellowship of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Thanks to the Board and the members of the Committee on Ministries for completing the evaluations we submitted in November. We will submit evaluations again next November, and then I hope to be granted full fellowship.

Jamie and I are excited to close on our house on February 14th. We plan to move over the next two weeks and would welcome help moving boxes the weekend of the 22nd-23rd.

Leads Worship and Officiates Rites of Passage

We explored Integrity through January and are considering Resilience this month. Victoria Taylor gave a wonderful sermon on Taoism. I've been pleased to get substantive feedback from people on my sermons, sharing what the services have made them think about, giving me new perspectives and ideas as I explore the theme in subsequent sermons. We've returned to the old configuration of the chairs, which gives us more seating, but some people have said they miss being able to see each other.

Provides Pastoral Care and Presence

I continue to meet with people in health care facilities and my office. Email has proved to be a useful means of communication, as well. In addition to physical and mental health issues, people are considering all kinds of life transitions and choices.

Encourages Spiritual Development for Self and Others

I continue to meet with my spiritual director and am pleased to have begun meditating more regularly. I'm also encouraging people to try out more of the spiritual exercises that come with the Soul Matters small group packets. Despite only a few people reporting that they had done their "homework" during last Sunday's service, several people afterward let me know that they were planning to do this week's.

I continue to facilitate the monthly aging and spirituality sessions. Laura Robinson has been leading a money empowerment workshop. Jamie McReynolds will be offering the three-session Common Read discussion group (of the book *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*) starting February 16th.

Witnesses to Social Justice in the Public Square

The gun violence vigil I had planned to attend in Richmond was cancelled because of fear of violence, and we were relieved when no violence materialized. I attended the winter summit of the Dialogue on Race and acted as a facilitator for one of the small groups doing a simulation to help understand the government policies creating the wealth gap between white and black people. We may offer the same or a similar simulation at our March social justice movie night. February 8th, I spoke at an [Interfaith Action Against Predatory Lending](#) sponsored by Virginia Organizing and Interfaith Center for Public Policy.

Leads Administration

I'm so grateful to Wayne Neu, David Hundley, and Sandy Power for getting all the numbers crunched and making the payment into the retirement fund for the DLFD and administrator. I also need to compliment the entire board on the way you all handled this situation—calmly and deliberately.

Steve, Wayne, and I met with the Strategic Planning committee and gave them their charge. I'm hopeful that this group will do some great work.

The leadership development committee sponsored a workshop led by Mark Benson on engaging transformation. Mark has brought together a group of eight young adults as his ad hoc focus group/assistants and is planning to offer another workshop focusing on social justice, probably in the fall. The LDC is also hard at work filling the slate for new board members to be voted on in June.

I've spent some time working with Lisa to produce a brochure for the upcoming stewardship campaign. We are holding an "early bird" campaign in February by visiting groups that already meet to encourage pledging ahead of the kickoff in March. The theme is "2020: Vision and Visibility," and Wayne Neu made a clever logo for the campaign, simulating an eye chart. I've also collected over 50 short written testimonials that will be used on the brochure and the website. (We've put a word cloud of people's responses to the question "What do you love most about UUC and why?" on the website).

I am also meeting with Lisa to talk about the job description for a new administrator and will be sharing a proposed timeline and search committee during the board meeting.

Serves the Larger Unitarian Universalist Faith

We gathered with a very small group in the UUC library to watch a webinar for UU the Vote, a campaign to get Unitarian Universalists engaged in the democratic process this election year.

Looking forward, I encourage board members to consider attending [General Assembly](#) in Providence, Rhode Island in June. This is a good year to go, given that it is on the east coast AND because our Director of Lifespan Faith Development will be honored during the Service of the Living Tradition. Attending GA creates connections with the larger denomination, through worship and workshops and general sessions.

Leads the Faith into the Future

I was co-planning the annual Lenten supper/service series with the minister from the Mennonite church in Christiansburg, but we won't be having it this year **because several congregations won't be able to participate this year.** We are talking about trying to put together a different way for all the congregations to get together. I'm also continuing to meet with the religious affairs committee of the NAACP, which hopes to sponsor another community-wide gathering.

We had a successful newcomers' orientation, with 16 people participating.

Time away from Blacksburg

VACUUM meeting in Charlottesville, February 18th

Administrator's Report to the Board

February 13, 2020

Annual membership number certification with UUA: All the required information was submitted to the UUA by the February 3 deadline including the Congregational Questionnaire that Pam helped me with.

Stewardship Update: As you will have seen in the newsletter and announcements, the “early bird” pledging is now on with the official kick-off being on March 1. To date, we already have 17 pledges for \$53,952. The committee is working on the brochure and FAQ sheet which will be available shortly. The 1st of 3 group gatherings (info meetings) is scheduled for next Sunday, Feb. 16. The meeting on February 23 focuses on newcomers, and the one on March 15 focuses on RE parents although anyone can go to any of the three. Evites have been sent out inviting people to attend. Both the public and member stewardship webpages have been updated but are works in progress.

Climate Change Strategic Action Planning Workshop: Please consider participating in this workshop on Saturday, **February 29**, 9 AM-1:30 PM as it would be helpful to have some of the leadership in attendance. The hope is that the congregation will come up with a clear plan to help with climate change mitigation. Register to participate via this link <https://forms.gle/pkRuhXwZxEsR1JxC9> by February 24. Even if not attending, an interesting article from Virginia Interfaith Power & Light lists 25 ways for congregations to help lower their carbon footprint. See the article, “How Cool Is Your Congregation?” at <https://uucnr.org/uucwp/wp-content/uploads/How-cool-is-your-congregation.pdf>.

New Christmas Tree: FYI – we purchased a new artificial 9’ tree to replace our old one which was getting on in years. For those not here many years ago, the old tree was donated by a former member, Gerry Anderson.

Attendance/Members: See [online Google Doc](#).

DLFD Report to the Board – January/February 2020

Submitted by Rachel Craine, DLFD Assistant

Registration

Registration numbers to date:

- CYRE: 127
- LFD Activity Slots: 153
- UUC Activity Slots: 165

CYRE refers to unique children; if a child registers for multiple activities, they are only counted once. Activity slots counts the multiple activities.

This Month

- Spring teacher training took place on January 11. We have 4 new teachers and 18 returning. Recruitment for summer and fall teachers will begin soon.
- MSYG will be making blankets for Project Linus this month.
- LFD sponsored a movie in our Social Justice Film Series, *The Armor of Light*, which was co-hosted by Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America on January 12. YRUU attended as a group.
- A 4-part Adult RE workshop, Money Empowerment, began January 13 and finishes up this month.
- OWL 8-9 began in late January and will run through early May, meeting Sunday afternoons. The class will be meeting downstairs and that floor will be off limits during class time to anyone not associated with the class. We have 8 youth participating.
***Andy Roberts reports that they are down one female facilitator and the other female lives in Roanoke and often works on Sunday. They have some back-ups, but he believes we should probably train more facilitators.*
- In January, our middle school RE class visited the Islamic Society of New River Valley, and in February they will be visiting St. Mary's Catholic Church.
- The digital binder Karen created for me has been very thorough and everything has been running smoothly. As a reminder, I am covering Children's RE, Coming of Age, Middle School Youth Group, and the Library. The main contact person for questions about other groups will be:
 - YRUU/YAC: Jane Keppel-Benson
 - OWL: Andy Roberts
 - ARE: Pam
 - LFDC: Jane Keppel-Benson
- *Jane Keppel-Benson reports: The YRUU program is going smoothly- with lots happening...*
 - *In December the YRUU Advisers and YAC adults met for a retreat. Then, YRUU youth met with YAC to review the fall and plan for the spring events.*
 - *In January, we bowled at Nrv Super Bowl, participated with Moms Demand Actions for a film on gun violence/rights, and youth provided technology help for individuals who purchased our auction item.*

- *In February, in addition to our regular meetings, we went to Xtreme Springz for an OOCE (out of church experience) and will participate in Project Linus blanket making.*
- *In March, we plan to discuss the issue of consent and sexual violence with Melinda Britt on March 1st. We will participate in the anti-racism film series on March 15th. We also will host a coffeehouse on March 27. And we will host delegate **Chris Hurst** on March 29 (6 to 8 o'clock).*
- *We hope that the board and congregation will support our youth in attending each of these last two items. (ie, the coffeehouse and Hurst discussion.)*
- *In April, YRUU will attend the Mountain Con and we are working with Mia Lazar to present some of her film work.*
- *In YAC, we are working on various ways of supporting/developing the leadership skills of our youth. We feel that there is a lot of group cohesion and feel good about the group as a whole.*