

UUC Board Meeting Minutes
Date: October 8, 2020
Approved November 12, 2020

Members in attendance (via Zoom): Wayne Neu, Bob Stimson, Nancy Bodenhorn, Meredith Hundley, Pam Phillips (ex-officio), Mindy Quigley, Brandie Lemmon, David Hundley

Chalice Lighting, Reading (Brandie Lemmon)
Check-in

Review and Accept Agenda: accepted unanimously with addition to new business of donation to grounds.

Approve Consent Agenda: accepted unanimously

Minister's Report
Administrator's Report
DLFD's Report
Previous Meeting Minutes

Treasurer's Report: Meredith reported the budget is in good shape, with to-date expenditures lower this year due to building closure.

Old Business:

- Building closure discussion. The number of COVID cases in Montgomery County are down from the spike that occurred when the colleges opened, but not to the level that it was. Discussion and unanimous agreement that the building can be opened to small groups according to the guidelines previously established. Priority will be given to groups that are supported by or part of the UUC.
 - New request from AA group (includes one UUC member) to hold meetings twice per week in the building. Unanimously approved the use while the building is open for use.
- Finalize Board Goals and Covenant. Unanimously adopted the goals and covenant for 2020-2021.
- Policy and Procedures Manual review. Wayne asked all to review the Section I edits. Consensus was reached to move the section on Right Relations to an appendix.

New Business:

- Donation to grounds. Neighbor donated \$100 in appreciation for the grounds, unanimously and gratefully accepted donation and designated to the grounds budget.
- Stewardship Committee membership – Bob Stimson is Board liaison to Stewardship. Committee has dwindled to about five committee members, which could be bolstered. Discussed possible suggestions.
- Report from the Strategic Planning Committee – Kim Feucht reported on the survey preliminary demographic and quantitative results. The committee will continue to

analyze the quantitative results and start to analyze the qualitative responses in the coming weeks. 106 members and friends completed the survey.

- Leadership Development Committee Membership – There was discussion of suggestions to share with the current chair for new committee members.

Upcoming:

Newsletter article (due 10/29) – Wayne Neu

Next Meeting Reading – Nancy

Next Board Meeting: Nov. 12, 2020

Check-out (How'd we do?)

Adjourned at 9:05

UUC Board Meeting Agenda
Date: October 8, 2020

7:00 – 7:15

Chalice Lighting, Reading (Brandie Lemmon)
Check-in

7:15 – 7:20

Review and Accept Agenda

7:20 – 7:30

Member Forum

7:30 – 7:45

Approve Consent Agenda:

Minister's Report
Administrator's Report
DLFD's Report
Previous Meeting Minutes

7:45 – 8:00

Treasurer's Report

8:00 – 8:30

Old Business

- Building closure discussion – New request from AA group
- Finalize Board Goals and Covenant
- Policy and Procedures Manual review

8:30 – 8:50

New Business:

- Stewardship Committee membership
- Report from the Strategic Planning Committee
- Leadership Development Committee Membership

8:50 – 9:00

Upcoming:

Newsletter article (due 10/29) – Wayne Neu
Next Meeting Reading – Who
Next Board Meeting: Nov. 12, 2020
Check-out (How'd we do?)

* Items in **bold** are to be reviewed before the meeting

Leads Worship and Officiates Rites of Passage

We explored the September theme of Renewal, continuing to broadcast from the sanctuary in an effort to ground them in familiar rituals of lighting the UUC chalice and the candles of hope and remembrance. We've been trying to engage the congregation more in our services, with hand gestures during joys and sorrows, children lighting the chalice, and different people reading the congregational covenant (contact Alyssa Short if you'd like to volunteer!). Worship associates Hayden Catlett's and Stephen Henninger's reflections on renewal were well received, and it was a great pleasure to welcome Earle Irwin back to the pulpit with her homily based on the work she has been doing Ocracoke after hurricane Dorian. We experimented with using the chat for congregational input during that service, which went well. We've also changed the coffee hour after the service at the recommendation of the Connections committee (smaller groups for 15 minutes and then reconfigure the groups).

It was good to hear the voices of our choir singing Spirit of Life. Thanks to Ella Kromin and choir manager Jennifer Thomas for getting the choir started up with virtual rehearsals and sending out digital recordings that choir members will use to record their parts. Thanks to Wayne Neu for putting together the final version—a tedious and time-intensive process. Jared Gibbs has started recording pieces on the piano in the sanctuary, giving us a greater sense of connection to the place, as well as beautiful music.

October's theme is Deep Listening, and Victoria Taylor and Alyssa Short will be offering a service where we'll have the opportunity to listen to the voices of several congregants.

I officiated a wedding off-site in September and have two weddings scheduled on the grounds in October for members and friends of UUC.

Provides Pastoral Care and Presence

The Lay Pastoral Care Ministry is continuing to support congregants going through difficult times, in addition to my meeting with people on Zoom, over the phone, and in physically distant meetings. The different support groups (caregivers, parents bereavement, transgender) continue to meet on-line. I've been receiving more requests for financial assistance as the effects of the pandemic continue.

Encourages Spiritual Development for Self and Others

The first meetings of Soul Matters small groups went well. We have six groups with 8-9 people in each group. I'm glad to be facilitating one of the groups. We're continuing to share the spiritual exercises in worship services so that everyone has an opportunity to practice them. The UU church in Charlottesville has opened up some of their adult faith development offerings to people in other congregations, which is advertised in the October newsletter. I'm planning to offer a class on the Commission on Institutional Change report once the study guide is published.

The Conversation on Faith group read and discussed Parker Palmer's book *A Hidden Wholeness*, an exploration which expanded our understanding of "deep listening."

The Spiritual Aging group on the first Sunday's continues to have good attendance and conversation.

I'm glad to add the Soul Matters group to my own work for spiritual development, in addition to meeting with my mentor minister and spiritual director. I'll also be attending a UUMA sponsored workshop called "Realism and Resilience: Preparing as Clergy for Post-Election Responses."

Witnesses to Social Justice in the Public Square

Our service on renewing our commitments gave me the opportunity to re-introduce the congregation to our groups working on racial justice and climate change. I met with a group of folks in the anti-racism discussion group to plan how we will introduce the 8th Principle to the congregation, and we are scheduled to have our first Conversation on Race this coming Sunday at 1:00. I encourage all the board members to attend. Greg Evanylo contacted all the people who participated in the environmental strategic planning session in February to remind them of their proposed action items and encourage them to take them up. These people will be calling for volunteers from the congregation to help.

Leads Administration

The Connections Committee has solidified plans for our first Zoom newcomer orientations. They also have plans to increase participation in Monday Meet-Ups and are exploring ways we can facilitate safe, outdoor in-person gatherings in November.

The auction committee is still working on the on-line Extravaganza and talent show and is in need of volunteers to send three-minute videos of "talent." I'm following suggestions to call it a "variety" show to encourage people to think more broadly about their talents and have already lined up a few more "acts." Karen Hager will be contacting parents. Board members should consider what they might contribute.

I met with the Technology Committee to begin the process of exploring our needs in the coming months and when we might be able to offer hybrid services.

I've received a request for an AA meeting to use our building on Monday and Thursday at 6:30. I explained the protocol that would be required (fewer than 10 people, 1 hour, maintain physical distancing and wearing masks, cleaning up after, etc.) and told them that I would bring the request to the board to consider as we discuss the building closure.

Serves the Larger Unitarian Universalist Faith

I continue to help lead the religious professionals' group once a month and hopeful that we will come up with a new name soon (formerly known as VACUUM, Virginia Cluster of UU Ministers). I attended a classmate's virtual ordination from Colorado this past Saturday and look forward to another one later this month in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I'll also attend the ordination of Leia Durland-Jones (the DLFJ) in Charlottesville the same day.

In addition to meeting with the Blacksburg Ministerial Association and NAACP religious affairs committee, I've been attending Fall Interfaith Brown Bag for Faculty, Staff & Community at Virginia Tech. I'll also be joining a meeting with other clergy this Saturday sponsored by the Facebook group *Looking out for Each Other- New River Valley*.

Leads the Faith into the Future

I've become a teaching mentor for a seminarian in Charlottesville who is attending Meadville Lombard Theological School. I look forward to meeting with her monthly "to facilitate theological reflection and to mentor her toward realization of her goals" in her course on

Cultural & Theological Grounding, Social Engagement. I was also pleased to fill out an interview form for Ellen Plummer for her aspirant status. It's a pleasure to hear about her coursework at Starr King School for the Ministry. The future of UU ministry is bright.

Administrator's Report to the Board
October 8, 2020

New Directory: Hoping to have it available by the end of the month. Somewhat more difficult to decide who to include as active now that we are not meeting in person. Will consult with Isabel, as usual.

Committee Meetings: Attended Auction and Stewardship Committee meetings in the past month. Will attend Connection Comm. meeting this week as well as the Newcomers' Orientations although my participating on this committee is as a volunteer and not part of my job.

Stewardship Update: Bob Stimson and Jordan Kuneyl have joined the committee. The fund drive will again start in February as it did for 2020-21. A suggestion was made to put together a video including children as a way of introducing stewardship. Andy Roberts, chair, will be stepping down as chair after this year but will remain on the committee. Andy and I are both participating in a stewardship webinar being presented by the Southern Region on Oct. 13.

Monday Meet-up Update: There have been 2-3 people joining the Monday Meet-up each week and seems to be going well although more participation had been hoped for. The Connection Comm. meets on Wednesday and will evaluate further.

Pledge Reminder Letters: Sent out this past week. As a result, several members who hadn't donated any of their pledge yet did so.

Annual Timeline: Available in the Board resources folder.

Attendance/Members: See the Google Doc. Note that the numbers reflect the number of computers logging in via Zoom and not the actual number of people.

Auction: Be sure to attend the virtual auction on Oct. 24 from 6-8 PM.

DLFD Report to the Board – October 2020

Submitted by Karen Hager, Director of Lifespan Faith Development

Registration

To date, 51 families, representing 90 children and youth have registered. As expected, those with Nursery age children with no online program are not registering. The breakdown by class is:

- Nursery: 3
- PreK: 12
- K-5: 35
- Middle School: 19
- High school: 21

Children and Youth Programs

- LFD's Scavenger Hunt has received enthusiastic praise and a lot of participation. We are planning a second hunt in spring that is nature-based.
- To keep families engaged, we are striving to offer at least one family activity each month. Planned so far:
 - Oct: It's Scary to Be Hungry
 - Nov: Mitten Tree
 - Nov/Dec: The Buddy Project
 - Dec: the annual No Rehearsal Holiday Pageant
- It's Scary to Be Hungry: Mindy Quigley has helped design a safe version of It's Scary to Be Hungry this year, as we are not able to do our traditional food drive at Kroger. On Halloween, we will hold a drive-by donation drive, to be advertised to the community. Internal advertising will also publicize that families (of all ages and types) can volunteer to serve as costumed greeters; each family will receive a designated space where they can stand and wave to cars, allowing kids to show off their Halloween costumes, and allowing adults the fun of seeing kids in costumes. All kids participating will receive a goody bag. All food collected will be donated to the Interfaith Food Pantry. Because we are not likely to match past year's collections, a monthly split the plate is also going to IFP.
- Mitten Tree: a safe version of this tradition will be held outdoors this year. The tree will be put up outside and cars can drive by to hang their donations of new mittens, gloves, scarves, and hats. This event will be held the Sunday before Thanksgiving and will also feature holiday music and candy canes for kids. A collection box will be placed in the front of UUC for those who wish to donate but can't make it that day.
- The Buddy Project: one mother told me that this event rivaled Santa Claus with her kids! Children and adults are matched without knowing each other's names. They exchange communication – this year, via snail mail, email, or surreptitious home drop-off – for 5 weeks, then will meet in an online Buddy Party. As in past years, Buddies will meet each other's families, increasing the number of connections at UUC. Other the years, we have introduced hundreds of people through this event, and some Buddies forge very strong, enduring relationships.
- No Rehearsal Holiday Pageant: the title of this year's play is still under discussion, but we will have a play! Scripts and possibly costumes will be provided to all those who would like a part (all ages – this is multi-generational). Actors will be asked to take a video of themselves saying their lines and doing whatever action is required, and will send them back to us. Rachel will splice the video clips together into a final play, which will be shown at the holiday multi-generational service on December 20.
- Attendance for all classes and youth groups continues to be very good. It has been reported by my in-house YRUU youth that the meetings, while not as good as being in person, are "getting better". Attendance last spring was basically non-existent, but the use of online games looks to be a major driver in getting higher attendance from both middle and high school youth.
- YRUU will hold its first in-person meeting October 9 with a socially-distanced outdoor movie. All safety processes will be followed.
- We have been given the opportunity to join Charlottesville's adult faith formation classes. Information has been included in the newsletter.