

UUC Board Meeting Minutes
Date: November 12, 2020
Approved December 10, 2020

Members in attendance (via Zoom): Wayne Neu, Nancy Bodenhorn, Meredith Hundley, Pam Phillips (ex-officio), Mindy Quigley, Brandie Lemmon, David Hundley. Irene Peterson, Molly McClintock, and Karen Hager attended as guests.
Not in attendance: Bob Stimson

Chalice Lighting, Reading (Nancy Bodenhorn)
Check-in

Review and Accept Agenda. Approved unanimously

Member Forum

Irene Peterson and Molly McClintock (auction committee co-chairs) reported on the auction, which consisted of on-line items for sale and a live event. They used Auctria software this year for the auction, which was successful and will be maintained. \$12,909.00 was raised. An additional \$2000 has been pledged but not yet paid. Holiday market plans are in the works for a week in December as an additional fundraiser. They plan a Spring event that will hopefully be able to include physical gatherings. They indicated that they are still committed to reach the target goal of \$18,500. The board expressed deep appreciation for their energy and organization.

Approve Consent Agenda: Approved unanimously

- Minister's Report
- Administrator's Report
- DLFD's Report - Karen Hager included in her report that she has been offered a temporary part time position supporting the RE program at her old congregation in Cincinnati. She will support them for a period of six months as an Interim RE Director. This will not affect her obligations and responsibilities at UUC. The board expressed appreciation for Karen's professionalism and commitment.
- Previous Meeting Minutes
- Treasurer's Report (Appointment of Assistant Treasurer?)

Discussion occurred of possible assistants. Meredith, the current treasurer, will contact and request someone to take that position. The position will be ongoing to support the treasurer, and also provide substantial support while Meredith is on maternity "leave". The Board unanimously approved changing the Vanguard signature authority to Wayne and Meredith.

Old Business

- Building closure discussion – Current data indicates that the number of COVID-19 cases are rising again in Montgomery County, even though the number of cases is not as high as in September. Due to the upward trend in the data, the Board unanimously voted to close the building.
- Stewardship Committee Membership – Alyssa Short and Jordan Kuneyl are welcomed to the stewardship committee.

- Leadership Development Committee Membership – This committee is responsible for identifying and developing leadership in the congregation. Names of prospective new members of this committee have been proposed to the current chair.

New Business:

- Preliminary suggestions from the Strategic Planning Committee – analysis is ongoing, with some trends emerging. Suggestions for additional gathering opportunities have been given to the Connections Committee.
- Prospective members for Committee on Ministries – A discussion of potential members was held. Pam will contact potential new members to replace Barbara Taylor and Margo Walter, who have almost completed their terms.

Upcoming:

Newsletter article (due 11/26) – Paul Quigley
Next Meeting Reading – Wayne
Next Board Meeting: Dec. 10, 2020
New to UUC Meeting November 15 - Wayne

Check-out (How'd we do?)

Meeting adjourned at 9:01

UUC Board Meeting Agenda
Date: November 12, 2020

7:00 – 7:15

Chalice Lighting, Reading (Nancy Bodenhorn)
Check-in

7:15 – 7:20

Review and Accept Agenda

7:20 – 7:30

Member Forum (Auction report?)

7:30 – 7:45

Approve Consent Agenda:

Minister's Report

Administrator's Report

DLED's Report

Previous Meeting Minutes

7:45 – 8:00

Treasurer's Report (Appointment of Assistant Treasurer?)

8:00 – 8:30

Old Business

- Building closure discussion
- Stewardship Committee Membership
- Leadership Development Committee Membership

8:30 – 8:50

New Business:

- Preliminary suggestions from the Strategic Planning Committee
- Discussion with Karen about supporting the Cincinnati RE program

8:50 – 9:00

Upcoming:

Newsletter article (due 11/26) –

Next Meeting Reading – Who

Next Board Meeting: Dec. 10, 2020

Check-out (How'd we do?)

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

Leads Worship and Officiates Rites of Passage

Our worship theme of Deep Listening in October gave us the opportunity to hear many voices (8!) on the Sunday Victoria Taylor and Alyssa Short led the service. People really appreciated hearing so many different heart-felt stories, so we are hoping to create other opportunities for members of the congregation to participate on Sunday mornings. In addition to having children and families light the chalice, we have started having members read the congregational covenant. Any board members who would like to participate in the service this way should contact Alyssa Short. Kimberley Homer did a fine reflection on listening to life. Thanks to Jim Kern for providing us with guitar music for our meditation. I delivered a sermon on Anna Garlin Spencer, fulfilling my obligation to George Lally, who had purchased the sermon topic in last year's auction.

November's theme of healing has proven useful as we have been living through this year's presidential election. Victoria Taylor shared her role as healer this past week.

We're still exploring how we can capitalize on broadcasting the service from the sanctuary. This past weekend, we moved the pulpit so people could see the colorful tree through the windows.

It was a pleasure to officiate at two weddings in October for congregants.

Provides Pastoral Care and Presence

The weather has been warm enough so that I could meet with several people on their front porches or on the grounds of UUC, in addition to several Zoom and telephone conversations. I'm mindful that we won't have that luxury once the colder weather sets in. We shared the many different opportunities to gather with other UU's the day of the election and the following days. I saw three members of UUC on Zoom during my presentation at the spiritual grounding event (organized by three UU ministers) election night and was grateful for their support.

Encourages Spiritual Development for Self and Others

The Soul Matters small groups are going well, and I'm planning to start another group or two in January so that those who didn't sign up before will get a chance to join one. The mid-week gatherings have gotten smaller of late, but the worship team still sees value in holding that space.

In addition to meeting with my mentor minister and spiritual director, I've found attending the Gladewood Social Distance Club concerts to be good for my soul. Thanks to Patrick and Kim Feucht and Kris and Amanda Hite for sharing their musical talents!

The Conversation on Faith group is reading *Caste* by Isabelle Wilkerson.

The Connections Committee sponsored two Newcomer's Orientations in October—our first since the pandemic. Thirteen people attended the sessions. We recorded one of the sessions for two people who were unable to attend due to technical issues. They watched the recording and met with me on the grounds the next week. I'm especially grateful for all the work committee members did to move this in-person activity on-line.

Witnesses to Social Justice in the Public Square

We held our first Conversation on Race, with 22 people in attendance. The anti-racism discussion group has plans to engage more of the congregation in considering racial justice, in part through updating their page on the UUC website and articles in the monthly newsletter.

I've been participating in the four-session Interfaith Cooperation & Civil Rights workshop promoted by the Interfaith Program at Virginia Tech, in partnership with the Interfaith Advisory Council and Synergy Interfaith Collective at Virginia Tech.

Leads Administration

I'm grateful for all the hard work of the auction committee for their successful on-line auction, culminating in the extravaganza talent/variety show. Jim Flowers and Ashley Spinks Dugan were spectacular MC's, Linda and Joe Powers were in charge of tracking all the donations made during each performance, and Irene Peterson and Molly McClintock followed up with all the auction buys. Thanks to all who participated—auction donors and buyers, performers, and audience members. We had 55 computers logged into the event, many of which had couples and families watching together.

I met with the strategic planning committee to begin discussing the analysis of the survey responses. We included demographic information to see if there were any differences based on respondents' age, place of residence, time at UUC, etc. However, there were few statistically significant differences. It became clear that many people were interested in more opportunities to engage with small groups and to be involved in social justice. The committee decided to pass on this information now instead of waiting for its final report.

The Connections Committee is exploring what interest groups we might be able to offer to create more opportunities to connect. They will also be reviving the New to UUC after-service discussion with a member of the committee, minister, and board member. These gatherings are held on the 3rd Sunday of the month. **We need a board member to volunteer to participate in the gathering on November 15th.**

Serves the Larger Unitarian Universalist Faith

I was honored to offer the Call to Worship at the ordination of Leia Durland-Jones in Charlottesville (which I recorded on UUC's labyrinth). I also attended the memorial services for former UUA co-moderator Elandria Williams and the Rev. David McPherson, minister emeritus at First UU in Richmond.

This week I am attending the annual SEUUMA (Southeast UU Ministers Association) retreat, usually held at The Mountain, but this year on Zoom. Nate Cannon is presenting on "Willing and Able: Inclusion Strategies for Supporting Persons with Mental Illness and Dementia."

Leads the Faith into the Future

At the invitation of their new interim minister, the Rev. Terre Balof, I met with the membership committee of the First Unitarian Church of Lynchburg. I shared some of the lessons we've learned about how to make our on-line services accessible to newcomers and ways we've been able to stay connected. It was great to be able to share some of our successes and made me even more grateful for the creativity and hard work of our worship team, ushers/greeters, and Connections committee.

Time Away

We plan to take a long weekend out of town November 20-23 (destination as yet unknown).

Administrator's Report to the Board
November 12, 2020

Committee Meetings: Attended Auction and Stewardship Committee meetings in the past month. Alyssa Short has agreed to serve on the Stewardship Committee.

Connections Committee/Monday Meet-up Update: Last month, over 50 invitation note cards were mailed to those who the Connections Committee thought might possibly enjoy participating. Attendance increased with enjoyable conversations. The committee opted to hold a special meet-up on Thanksgiving for those who may be lonely and in need of conversation. The committee will continue to evaluate the success of this offering for the near future. The committee is also working to establish small group interest groups to give people more ways to connect with others at UUC. Pam will develop a form to establish interest in these groups.

Groups using building: To date, only the Women's Lunch group has requested to use Elarth now that it's too cold to gather in the picnic area.

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. We have been having several new people logging into services and returning.

Parent Bereavement Group: As an FYI – Mike Wade, Communications & Outreach coordinator for NRCS will be doing a podcast interview with Katherine Allen and me on Nov. 24 about our group so that others in the community can find out more about us.

Happy Thanksgiving!

DLFD Report to the Board – November 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

- Our annual social action project, It's Scary to Be Hungry, was an overwhelming success! We collected almost 1500 pounds of food, for a total of \$2571.65 in food and cash donated to the Interfaith Food Pantry. Families enjoyed dressing in costumes and volunteering as greeters, and as food collectors. Kids received goody bags for attending, and, by my count, approximately 40 children attended. Many, many thanks to Mindy Quigley who headed up this event!
- Mitten Tree: a safe version of this tradition will be held outdoors this year on November 22. 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 has been placed at UUC's entrance for those who wish to donate but can't make it that day.
- The Buddy Project: registration is now in progress and will end Sunday, November 8. That week, I will match children and adult Buddies, with the program scheduled to begin November 15. We have had good registration to date, with both returning Buddies and those new to the activity. I am getting a lot of positive feedback off of finding a way to still make this happen!
- No Rehearsal Holiday Pageant: we are currently accepting requests for parts in this year's production, *Elf*, and will continue to take requests through November 25. The following week, scripts and possibly costumes will be provided to all those who would like a part (all ages – this is multi-generational), with actors asked to take a video of themselves saying their lines and doing whatever action is required, and returning it to us by December 11. Rachel will splice the video clips together into a final play, which will be shown at the holiday multi-generational service on December 20. We are looking forward to a very fun play, showcasing many of our children!
- YRUU held a Cookie Exchange, with youth making and delivering a dozen cookies to one other youth. This event was received well and resulted in an increase in attendance for the following Sunday. We are in the process of setting our next meeting with the YRUU and YAC adult advisors to discuss the next few months.

Interim Opportunity

I have been offered and accepted a temporary part-time position (virtual) as the Interim Director of Religious Education at Heritage Universalist Unitarian Congregation (HUUC) in Cincinnati, responsible for Nursery-grade 12. HUUC is my old congregation and I applied at the request of their minister. This position will coincide with a decrease in my weekly hours at UUC that will be necessitated because of the large number of hours that were needed to get new online programs created and established for fall. I anticipate no problems in being able to do both positions at the same time, and HUUC understands that, in the event of time conflicts, UUC is my first priority.

The work being requested is nearly identical to the work I performed for the Roanoke congregation as a consultant in 2016-17. Essentially, there are two components to the job: 1. to administer an online virtual RE program for the last half of the RE year; 2. to prepare the congregation for a new settled DRE. The job description decrees that I may NOT apply for the settled position.

I will be visiting the Board meeting this month to answer any questions that the Board may have about this position.