

Approved 8.12.21

UUC Board Meeting Minutes
Held in person at the UUC
July 8 2021

In attendance: Nancy Bodenhorn, Karen Hager, Stephen Henninger, Brandie Lemon, Bob Stimson, Meredith Hundley (via Zoom)

Not in attendance: Gene Gardner, Mindy & Paul Quigly, and Rev. Pam

Chalice Lighting, Reading [Brandie]
Check-in

Member Forum - none present

Review and Accept Agenda - *Approved Unanimously*

Approve Consent Agenda:

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

Treasurer's Report

Meredith shared her report. Wrapping up final bookkeeping tasks for the fiscal year. Ended the year fantastically. Net income was \$76,000 and other income of approximately \$45,000. We met 99.78% of the fiscal year 2022 budget through pledges. Very impressive financial year for us, considering COVID-19 pandemic. Vanco continues to prove a strong financial flow for UUC.

Meredith highlighted an item from UUC Policies and Procedures Manual noted by the finance committee - "All budgeted monies not spent during the prior fiscal year will be distributed to the operations and building contingency funds in a 4:1 ratio." The Finance Committee plans to review where the funding is allocated, in accordance with policy. Fiscal year 2021 numbers should be finalized by the August Board meeting.

Old Business

- **Public Witness Request Decision RE MVP Pipeline**

The Board discussed the MVP Pipeline Public Witness Request in relation to the public witness policy, the MVP survey results, individual member feedback, and whether this process implemented by the Board heard the voice of the whole Congregation. Nancy moved that the UUC Board ask the petitioners to rewrite their petition, prior to it being sent to indicated politicians, to represent the individuals who desire to sign the petition as members of UUC, allowing for a

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period of additional members to sign the petition if they so choose. This motion was seconded by Meredith Hundley. This was unanimously approved by the Board.

- Debrief Annual Meeting
The Board discussed the Annual Meeting, particularly the discussion of the 8th Principle being respectful and rigorous.
- Reopening discussion
Case counts in the New River Valley continue to stay low. With Religious Education coming back to the building on September 12, starting outdoors (weather permitting), there was talk about services returning to the building sometime in August to allow for troubleshooting being back in person, with mitigation measures in place. The Board will continue to monitor the case count in the New River Valley.

New Business

- Gathering Limit Exception
The Board unanimously approved an exception to the gathering limit for an October 1 event.
- Board Retreat Planning
 - Setting a date
The Board discussed having the retreat on August 26 for a few hours.
 - Topics to cover at the retreat:
 - Board Covenant
 - Goals
 - What June 2022 might look like? What do we need to do to keep that a reality?
- [Strategic Plan & 8th Principle Discussion](#)
 - How does the Board use these moving forward? The Congregation?
The Board discussed that these will be important for the Congregation moving forward, in particular after the recent UUA General Assembly. The Board also discussed moving forward with our renewal of the Welcoming Congregation Certification.
- **Growth Through Service Program - Leadership Development Program**
The Board discussed the Growth Through Service Program and the work Steve Keighton and the Leadership Development Committee will do to utilize this program in service to the Congregation.

Upcoming:

- Checkout: Did we abide by our Covenant?
- Next meeting: August 12 2021 (quorum?)
- Newsletter article, Due July 22, *Bob volunteered to write the Board newsletter article*
- Reading for the next meeting? *Stephen Henninger volunteered to select the reading for the next meeting.*

Adjourned at 8:10pm.

UUC Board Meeting Agenda
July 8 2021

7:00-7:15

Chalice Lighting, Reading [Brandie]
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

8:00-8:25

Old Business

- **Public Witness Request Decision RE MVP Pipeline**
- Debrief Annual Meeting
- Reopening discussion

8:25-8:50

New Business

- Board Retreat Planning
 - Setting a date
 - Topics to cover:
 - Board Covenant
 - Goals
 - What June 2022 might look like? What do we need to do to keep that a reality?
- [Strategic Plan](#) & [8th Principle Discussion](#)
 - How does the Board use these moving forward? The Congregation?
- **Growth Through Service Program - Leadership Development Program**

8:50-9

Upcoming:

Checkout: Did we abide by our Covenant?

- Next meeting: August 12 2021 (quorum?)
- Newsletter article (Who?), Due July 22
- Reading for the next meeting?

*Items **bolded** are to be reviewed prior to the Board meeting

July 2021 Minister's Report to the Board
Submitted by Rev. Pam Philips

Leads Worship and Officiates Rites of Passage

The monthly worship theme in June was Play. We played with the features of Zoom, doing polls on games people enjoyed playing and creating a word cloud. We also enjoyed several members' renditions of "Dad Jokes" during the service on playing with words. Thanks especially to Gene Gardner and members of the Sacred Language class for their contributions. The last service of the month was the General Assembly Sunday service, led by staff and members of First Universalist Church in Minneapolis.

July services will be led by worship associates. One of the services will include a sermon by my colleague in Virginia Beach, Rev. Viola Abbott, as part of the sermon library created by members of the Joseph Jordan Cluster of UU religious professionals. I am contributing a sermon, too, that will be shared in the Newport News UU congregation.

I have been meeting with families to plan memorial services that had been postponed due to the epidemic. I will be leading services for long-time members Craig and Janet Turner on July 10th and Stephanie Gilmore on July 31st.

I officiated a small wedding on the labyrinth.

Provides Pastoral Care and Presence

Pastoral care needs have increased in the past few weeks, with several people experiencing health issues. The lay pastoral care ministry associates are busy. While I am on Study Leave/Vacation, Jennifer Mercier will be the contact for pastoral needs. I will be available for emergencies through July.

Encourages Spiritual Development for Self and Others

The credos that were written as part of the Sacred Language workshops were phenomenal. I'm looking forward to class members Stephen Henninger and Alyssa Short leading worship in July, based on their experiences in the course. I'm also looking forward to revisions made to the curriculum based on those who piloted it this spring and plan to offer it again next year. I'll be exploring other adult faith development curricula as part of my study leave.

Ministry Days and General Assembly offered many opportunities for me to attend worship services, and I especially appreciated "Re-Sourcing Ritual: Cocreating Healing" led by Rev. Chip Roush.

I'm looking forward to opportunities for spiritual renewal this month.

Witnesses to Social Justice in the Public Square

The General Assembly adopted a Statement of Conscience: [Undoing Systemic White Supremacy: A Call to Prophetic Action](#) and three Actions of Immediate Witness: [Defend and Advocate with Transgender, Nonbinary, and Intersex Communities](#), [The COVID-19 Pandemic: Justice. Healing. Courage.](#) and [Stop Voter Suppression and Partner for Voting Rights and a Multiracial Democracy](#). These are opportunities for UUC to engage in social justice that the larger movement deems worthy of our attention. I attended a workshop led by staff and members of All Souls UU in Tulsa -- REWIRE: Rewiring Your Racial Consciousness -- and another led by LGBTQ and Multicultural Programs Director Rev. Michael Crumpler -- Five Practices of Welcome Renewal Orientation. Both of these

proved useful in framing some of the work we will do as a congregation to live into the 8th Principle of dismantling racism and other oppressions.

I am excited to report that congregant Natalie Cook approached me to ask for UUC's support for a culturally competent doula program to serve Black mothers and other pregnant persons of color which she is calling BEARTH Village (for Birth Equity Action & Research to Transform Health). The Anti-Racism Group expressed enthusiasm for supporting Natalie's work and staff determined that the room off the nursery would be a suitable space for the program. Please see the document in the July Board folder for more information of how UUC can support the program, in addition to providing space.

Leads Administration

Members of the Safety Committee, Liz and Rachel Craine, moved chairs in the sanctuary to prepare for in-person worship services. The chairs are organized in sets of three, with six-foot distancing between them, and tape marks the sets of chairs so they can be moved to accommodate larger family groupings and then returned. I will be ordering air purifiers for the sanctuary and Elarth (Karen has already gotten some for RE spaces).

The Technology Committee has decided that TV screens/monitors on either side of the front of the sanctuary is the best visual option (leaving the space behind the pulpit free of technology) and Will Schneider has provided a quote for the additional equipment we will need to support on-line and in-person worship (which was a clear wish from our survey).

The Strategic Planning Committee report is up on the website. I will ask them to help lead a service in September to formally introduce it to the congregation.

Serves the Larger Unitarian Universalist Faith

It was great to meet in Elarth with delegates Stephen Henninger, Jamie McReynolds, Ellen Plummer, and Bob Stimson to attend the General Sessions of the UUA General Assembly. We will be reporting out to the congregation what we gleaned from GA in a worship service in August or September.

Leads the Faith into the Future

For groups who are meeting in Elarth and on Zoom, I left the 360° webcam in the board cupboard in the workroom. There is also a webcam on top of the large television and a HDMI cord to connect to a laptop. Karen Hager and Lisa Evanylo can set up Zoom rooms for groups that need them.

Our current plan is to begin in-person/on-line worship services by the end of August.

Time away from Blacksburg

I may make some short trips out of Blacksburg during July but will be available for emergencies by phone/email. We will be on vacation on the West Coast from August 10th-24th.

Administrator's Report to the Board July 8, 2021

Late Pledge Payments: I will shortly send Meredith a list of all those owing over \$100 on their 2020-21 pledge – a surprisingly low number this year. As Treasurer, she will send emails asking if they intend to pay up or not – and that if not, not a problem but just to let us know for our records. Late pledge payments for 20-21 can be credited to 20-21 pledges through July 31 when the books are closed for 20-21. After that, they will be credited to 21-22 pledges in the budget but 20-21 in our contribution software (Powerchurch).

Updating Board Contacts with UUA: I updated UUA Data Services with current contact info for Board members. I believe this gets you on the mailing list for the region newsletter and other communications from the UUA. I also updated the Board listserv.

Groups in the Building: Now that the building is open for up to 25 people at a time, several groups are meeting there and/or on the grounds. We also have a few rentals on the calendar that are aware of mask and distancing requirements.

Administrator Pro Days: Attended the gathering of about 120 UU administrators via Zoom on June 21-22. I didn't find the workshops to be all that helpful having been in this job for a long time, but newer admins did. Best parts for me were the small group discussions/chats.

Vacation time: I will be on vacation July 6-24 but will have my computer with me and will be checking emails and sending announcements along with other routine work such as updating the website, etc. Since I'll be on Pacific time, announcements and such will most likely go out later than usual or maybe the next morning. Isabel will be checking the mail.

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.

DLFD Report to the Board – July 2021

Submitted by Karen Hager, Director of Lifespan Faith Development

A short report this month, as I was on vacation for the first two weeks of the month, and attended Professional Development events for the following two weeks.

Children and Youth Programs

- SUUmer AdventUUre JoUUrnals will continue through August, with prizes (free ice cream cone from Sugar Magnolia) for completing 10 adventUUres. Families scan a QR code and fill out a contact form to receive their prize.
- The draft reopening plan for LFD is available at https://uuc-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/dlfd_uuc_onmicrosoft_com/EW2LsSRHAr5LjyQnVqABsLcBX7XFKmKylKI6eg99nJMb9w?e=nVDbI0 and has been posted in the newsletter. This plan will be revised once new guidelines are received from the CDC and state of VA, and after MCPS announces their mitigation plans for school (all expected in late July or early August).
- I am very happy to report that fall recruitment for RE teachers is complete! From talking to other DFDs, I know that we are in the minority of congregations that can say that! We are still in need of one male YRUU advisor.
- Fall registration opened early this year, to help us plan class sizes for distancing. To date, 41 families, representing 66 children and youth have registered. This number includes 2 new families.
- I am beginning to work on the fall program. Planning for both outdoor and indoor classes, and accommodating COVID guidelines for unvaccinated children, will require most of the next two months.

Professional Development

- I attended LREDA Professional Days June 16-18 and General Assembly June 23-27.
- My work with Heritage Universalist Unitarian Church is finished, as of June 30.