

UUC Board Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2023
(Approved 2/9/23)

In attendance: Nancy Bodenhorn, Fred Piercy, Wayne Neu, Gene Gardner, Angela Parrish, Laura Robinson, Rami Steinruck, and Rev. Pam.

Chalice Lighting, Reading, and Check-in

Nancy called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Rami shared a reading.

Review and Accept Agenda - *Approved unanimously.*

Member Forum - *No members were present.*

Racial Equity Exploration Dialog

The Board broke into two groups to discuss and reflect on selected questions.

Approve Consent Agenda

- Minister's Report
- Administrator's Report
- DLF's Report
- Previous Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the consent agenda unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

*We should authorize a second signer on the UUC account. Could be one of the Trustees.
The new budget needs to accommodate retirement funding costs for new staff when eligible.*

Old Business

- Changes to Policy and Procedures
- Memorial plaque or other recognition for Isabel Berney
- Half-plate collection modification request

The Board unanimously approved revisions to policies and procedures for the Strategic Planning and the Organizational Structure sections.

The Board voted unanimously to establish the Isabel Berney Award for Exceptional Service. Format and selection policy to be determined at a future meeting.

After some discussion, the proposal to change the allocation of the half-plate collection failed by general consent.

New Business

- Delegates for General Assembly
- Annual Congregational Meeting

The Board will ask members interested in being a delegate for the 2023 UUA General Assembly (June 21-25 in Pittsburgh) to submit their names. Details forthcoming.

The Annual UUC Congregation Meeting will be June 4, 2023. An informational meeting will be held on May 21.

Upcoming

- Angela will represent the Board at the “New to UUC” session (Jan. 15)
- Wayne will write the article for the February Newsletter.
- Next Board Meeting is Feb 9, 2023. Nancy will prepare the reading.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 pm.

UUC Board Meeting Agenda
January 12, 2023

We, the UUC Board, seek informed collaboration and clarity in our work of supporting UUC ministries. We interact with respect, trust, deep listening, and curiosity. We affirm one another, and maintain fierce dedication to diversity and inclusion in our commitment to the community we serve. We communicate directly and with courageous love. When it arises, we engage in productive conflict. We are focused, accountable, and authentic. We laugh together. We maintain the trust and confidentiality of board members' contributions and speak with one voice regarding board actions.

7:00-7:20

Chalice Lighting, Reading (Rami), Check-in
Review and Accept Agenda

7:20-7:40

Member Forum

-OR-

Racial Equity Exploration Dialog - from Selected Questions for Board Discussion

*What is your personal relationship with racism, white privilege, and white supremacy?
What stories or experiences from your early years shaped your understanding of race?*

7:40-7:45

Approve Consent Agenda

Minister's Report

Administrator's Report

Director of Lifespan Faith Development's (DLFD) Report

Previous Meeting Minutes

7:45-7:55

Treasurer's Report

7:55-8:45

Old Business

Update on Policy and Procedure Review project

Review changes to Strategic Planning section and vote

Memorial plaque or other recognition for Isabel Berney

Half-plate collection modification request (vote)

8:35-8:50

New Business

Next steps for Strategic Plan Implementation

Delegates for General Assembly

Current UUC Organization Chart (if time)

8:50-9:00

Check-out - Did we abide by our covenant?

Upcoming

Next Board Meeting (February 9, 2023)

February Newsletter article -

Reading for February Meeting -

Other activities - 1/15 - New to UU -

January 2023 Minister's Report to the Board
Submitted by Rev. Pam Philips

Leads Worship and Officiates Rites of Passage

December services explored the theme of Wonder, and we had several special services. The annual no-rehearsal play was live (rather than on video) for the first time in three years. Rachel Craine, with help from member Erin Martin, created the script for A Charlie Brown Christmas. Rachel also created all the props, sets, and costumes. The children and adults who participated had fun and brought the story to life, as did the piano accompaniment Jared Gibbs provided. The Christmas Eve service was led by Anna Tulou, Ellen Plummer, Kristine Reid and me, with Mary Louise Hallauer on piano. Victoria Taylor took the lead on a lovely Christmas morning service, and she and her husband Bernard Ross provided eggs, potatoes and biscuits for the breakfast we enjoyed before the service. The 20 or so folks who attended also brought breakfast food to share. Many churches canceled 12/25 services, or prerecorded video services, but I'm glad we chose to meet live with those in the sanctuary and on Zoom.

This month we'll explore Finding our Center, and Anna Tulou and Rachel Craine started off well with a "Cozy Church" on New Year's Day, inviting folks to attend in their pj's and providing blankets.

Last month I asked the board to reconsider the policy on masking while singing and followed up with Linsey Marr at your request. She indicated that singing unmasked while we are in the green (low) zone was okay but that we would probably be back in the yellow (medium) zone soon (which has turned out to be true).

I was delighted to officiate at a small family wedding on December 26th, and I've already been contacted by three couples who are getting married this spring. I will be assisting at a memorial gathering next week for a member of the UU Congregation of Charlottesville who used to live in Blacksburg.

Provides Pastoral Care and Presence

UUC hosted, and I attended the Good Samaritan Hospice "Love Lights" event in December. The attendance was sparse, but it was good to be able to provide space for this worthy organization.

Along with visits to congregants at their homes and in the hospital, I was able to provide support to visitors and community members. Thanks to the congregation for their generosity to the Community Assistance Fund, we were able to pay for groceries, utility bills, overnight stays in a motel, dental work, prescription medicine, and medical bills.

Encourages Spiritual Development for Self and Others

Amidst the December festivities were times for more reflective observances, especially the multigenerational Winter Solstice gathering planned and led by Kimberley Homer. The multigenerational gathering created luminaries, held a ritual outside, walked up to the labyrinth together, and then had hot cider and snacks. There were around 20 participants, including families and newcomers to UUC.

The Open Heart, Peaceful Mind retreat at Pendle Hill outside Philadelphia the week after Christmas was an amazing opportunity to rest and reflect on the last year and next. We

meditated, journaled, worshiped (Quaker-style, in silence), walked labyrinths, and even had a day of silence. I was grateful for the opportunity to reset for the new year.

Witnesses to Social Justice in the Public Square

Four new social justice teams (Climate/Environmental Justice, Voting Rights, Reproductive Justice, Racial Justice) have already begun meeting since being formed out of the Social Justice Team's survey. The Anti-Racism Practice Group with the Presbyterians and Methodists will start January 17th (register [here](#)).

Leads Administration

The telephones were not working, and it turns out that when the alarm system was updated, they misconnected the wiring in a way that shut down the phones. It has since been corrected.

Staff has been concentrating on coordinating communications within the congregation, taking time in our staff meetings to share what is important to communicate and how.

I'm meeting with the Stewardship, Auction, Safety, Communications, Connections, and Committee on Ministries committees..

Serves the Larger Unitarian Universalist Faith and Leads the Faith into the Future

I met with UU colleagues during our Joseph Jordan Cluster monthly gathering and have been meeting with some Blacksburg colleagues for lunch.

Meeting weekly with ministerial intern Anna Tulou continues to provide me with opportunities to share how we do things at UUC and to learn from her experiences, studies, and questions.

Time away from Blacksburg and UUC

January 24th – 29th: Vacation in Mexico

Administrator's Report to the Board January 5, 2023

December Meetings: Held a meeting for the Communications Committee early in December. We discussed the budget needed as well as ways to break down the large and continuous tasks needed to improve our communication both within and without the UUC walls.

Time off: The next month or so I will be working on getting processes documented so that a volunteer can help with admin tasks so that I can take time off.

Annual membership number certification with UUA: With Pam's help, I will submit this information along with other requested info (budget numbers, attendance, RE registration, etc.) by the February deadline.

Annual tax letters with donations for 2022: Letters will be emailed within the next 2 weeks to all who donated to UUC in 2022. Pledge reminder letters will also be sent out this month.

Attendance/Members: See the [Attendance/Numbers](#) Google doc.

DLFD Report to the Board – January 2023

Children and Youth Programs:

- **Registration Numbers:** Currently 53 families and 86 children have registered for 106 activity slots (increase due to OWL registration)
- Still looking for 1-2 more teachers for spring RE. Spring teacher training scheduled for the morning of Jan. 21.

- **MSYG and YRUU:**
 - MSYG and YRUU both have bowling OOCes planned in January.
 - 6 YRUU youth enjoyed the December Mountain con. Now we are planning for a group to attend GA.
 - YRUU will have a Coffee House on January 14.
 - YRUU advisor/YAC adult lunch and mini retreat will be held January 21, after teacher training.

- **OWL**
 - Kick off for K-1 and 4-5 OWL on January 22. 18 children are registered– 13 from our congregation as well as 5 from the community.
 - Rachel and Anna Tulou will get trained for elementary OWL online in January.

Adult Programs:

- Social Justice Film Series: The Biggest Little Farm scheduled for January 6. Targeted email to those interested in environmental justice–hoping to increase attendance by using reported interest from the social justice survey.
- Scheduled Spring Programming: Common Read, Transgender Inclusion, What Moves Us, Neoliberalism Book Discussion, and several stand-alone, single session offerings–This month Prayer Beads.
- New Parent Covenant Groups are forming. 11 families have registered so far, representing 19 adults and 21 children. The first meeting will be January 21, and I am excited to facilitate this new format–2 separate groups each will meet for 1 hour, with a combined potluck for an hour in between. I will be coordinating childcare, to which parents will contribute \$. Anne Hall and I will help get the groups started, facilitating discussion and modeling the format. Several newer families have signed up!

All Ages Activities:

- Holiday Party in December was very successful. Planning to make future Family Movie Nights similar. This January 27, the movie will be Encanto, and before the

movie there will be food and crafts related to the theme. Families are more likely to come to a party than just a movie.

- Great multi-gen play on Dec. 18—lots of positive feedback
- Buddy Project wrapped up. Positive feedback on the new format for buddies meeting—drinks, snacks, and crafts downstairs provided lots of time for socialization. Disappointed that several buddies were sick or out of town. Trying to think of ways to improve for next year.

We have visitors! Springhouse Community School will be staying at the UUC Monday, January 23-Friday January 27. They will be spending the week working on a project with the Christiansburg Institute. While they are here, they will be offering opportunities for UUC and the wider community. Tuesday from 7-9 everyone is welcome to participate in Shape Note Singing. On Wednesday, along with Christiansburg Institute, they will host a community discussion on the book "Just Mercy" by Brian Stevenson and discussing the criminal justice system. All are welcome. Learn more about this unique school community that shares many of our values [here](#).

Other DLFD activities:

- Elementary OWL training this month (mentioned above.)*cannot attend tonight because of OWL class from 6-8:30
- Reading various resources about small group ministry and youth ministry advising, to become better at facilitating these meetings. Issues in YRUU and in the former Parent Covenant Group prompted me to look into these topics.
- Working to coordinate with my counterpart in Roanoke to collaborate on some offerings for our youth and adults
- A survey of families indicated interest in providing activities and/or child care on teacher work days and possibly inclement weather days (when roads in town are fine.) Planning to begin with a morning RE program and full day childcare event on February 3.
- Enjoyed a week off with my family in December!! Happy New Year!

