

UUC Board Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2023

(Approved 5/11/23)

In attendance: Nancy Bodenhorn, Fred Piercy, Wayne Neu, Gene Gardner, Laura Robinson, Rev. Pam, Rachel Craine, Anna Tulou, and Angela Parrish (via Zoom).

Chalice Lighting, Reading, Check-in and Review of Agenda

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

The agenda was reviewed with some additions and approved unanimously.

Approve Consent Agenda

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

The Board approved the consent agenda unanimously.

Treasurer's Report.

Wayne presented a summary of the April Finance Committee meeting.

Old Business

- Changes to Policy and Procedures
- Board Auction Event

The Board unanimously approved revisions to policies and procedures for the Lifespan Faith Development section. Plans for the "Dancing Through the Decades" event were finalized.

New Business

- Date for joint meeting with the Finance Committee
- UU Organization Structure
- Next steps for Strategic Plan Implementation

The joint meeting was set for May 10 at 6:00 pm.

Fred led a discussion on the values the organizational structure should reflect and represent, whether it should be current or aspirational (or both), and possible portrayal concepts. A subgroup of the Board will put some ideas together for a future meeting.

The Board discussed ways to provide opportunities for self-education for the congregation integrating the work of the AntiRacism and Community Conversations Groups, and to identify or create workshops to empower the entire congregation to practice radical hospitality.

Upcoming

- Next Board Meeting is May 11, 2023. Rami will prepare the reading.
- Nancy will write the article for the April Newsletter.
- 4/16 - Get to Know UUC - Wayne, 4/22 - Newcomer Orientation - Nancy

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

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

Leads Worship and Officiates Rites of Passage

We finished up a month of exploring Vulnerability with services on Trust, Unchosen Vulnerability, and Speaking the Truth in Love. The March 12th service was all virtual because bad weather threatened, and it was oddly satisfying to be all on the same platform again. The Committee on Ministries members participated in the service inviting the congregation to participate in feedback groups targeting people's experience of worship at UUC.

The April theme of Resistance has proven interesting -- with a very well-received reflection from worship associate Heather Nicholson on the relationship between resistance and religion. We also had a multigenerational Easter service featuring a UU Tenebrae liturgy. I'm working with members of the Environmental Justice / Climate Change group on the upcoming Earth Day service, which will also feature singer-songwriter Ash Devine.

Congregants have been supporting the stewardship pledge drive with inspiring testimonials during the services, including Denise Martin, Laura Robinson, Molly Lazar, and Alice Quigley. Likewise, our families have created entertaining videos updating us on progress toward our goal.

Wedding season is upon us, and I have or will be officiating at several ceremonies, including one in March here at UUC and two in May. We are hosting a memorial service for a community member this Saturday -- thanks to the Piecemakers for moving to accommodate.

Provides Pastoral Care and Presence

Pastoral needs continue, with multiple pastoral visits to congregants who were hospitalized and undergoing rehab in the past month. I've heard from people outside the congregation looking for pastoral care, as well -- a testament to this congregation being known as a place where people are affirmed and welcomed..

The new Surviving Spouses group continues to be well-attended (6-10 people).

Encourages Spiritual Development for Self and Others

We completed six sessions discussing the Common Read ([Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism](#)).

Conversations on Our Faith is still working through [The Great Transformation: The Beginning of our Religious Traditions](#) -- which explores the Axial Age in China, India, Israel, and Greece.

Ministerial intern Anna Tulou and I are co-leading a 10-session curriculum called "What Moves Us" which uses stories and writings of prominent Unitarian and Universalist theologians as a springboard for personal theological reflection. Some were disappointed that it was not more didactic in nature.

Witnesses to Social Justice in the Public Square

I participated in an Interfaith Service at the Blacksburg Jewish Community Center. The Zoom for the event didn't work, which several disappointed UUC congregants informed me during the service. Fortunately, a [video](#) recording was made available. I have since met with the president of the BJCC to talk about ways our congregations might collaborate. We hope to organize a joint study/book group for

the fall. If you have ideas of other ways we might work together, please let me know.

Leads Administration

I've been supporting the Stewardship Committee weekly in worship, as well as attending the stewards training and keeping up the spreadsheet when Ericka was on vacation. The stewardship events have not been as well attended as last year, possibly because we are not as in need of social interactions as we were last spring. There are three more events -- you can sign up [here](#). (The Say Cheese! Event on March 26th was a great success and yielded many new photographs that will go into the updated directory.) The Connections Committee will be helping to coordinate the celebration on April 30th.

I learned how to send out MailChimp emails during Ericka's vacation, which will be very useful in the future. I'll be meeting with the Communications Committee this Sunday. One of the issues I'd like to discuss is whether we want to continue having a monthly newsletter in the current format.

We have held three Feedback Groups focused on people's experience of Worship. The process has been working well, with some interesting and useful feedback gathered at each meeting. This Sunday's group is full, but there is still room for you to [sign up](#) in the last scheduled group on Thursday, April 20th. The Committee on Ministries will collate and analyze the information and report their findings to the board and the worship team.

I'm pleased with the number of groups renting space here. The LLI class Great Decisions has finished its Wednesday morning rentals, Ash Devine is renting the library for ukulele lessons, and I've enjoyed listening to the Cayambis Sinfonietta rehearsals as they prepare for their concert. These are in addition to at least one outside wedding and memorial service. It makes sense to raise the amount we might earn from rentals in our 2023-2024 budget. Thanks to Ericka for taking care of the rentals.

On another budget note, we've received a request for our pledge to the UUA Annual Program Fund for 2024 and it is \$17,066 (less than we had budgeted). While I remain confident that our congregation will be as generous as in years past, we may not need to rely on quite as much in pledges..

We are also offering free use of space for some upcoming nonprofit events -- The Janes Movie on 4/14 (UUC Reproductive Justice), Voter Information Forum on 4/20 (UUC Voter Rights, along with NAACP and League of Women Voters), and a Final Exit workshop on 5/20 (with Funeral Consumers Alliance of the Blue Ridge) which I think will be a good way to bring people to UUC.

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

It's time to complete evaluations for our ministerial intern. I'll be meeting with the Internship Committee with Anna as they discuss their evaluation and will share mine with them and her, as well.

Time away from Blacksburg and UUC

April 18th -- Waynesboro for Blue Ridge Cluster of UU Religious Professionals

May 7th -- Greenville, South Carolina for the Installation of Rev. Chris Hockman at GUUF

**Administrator's Report to the Board
April 6, 2022**

Pledge Updates: Pledge updates were emailed on March 16.

PowerChurch: I have a scheduled meeting with Jamie this month to go over ways to better utilize PC and its reports.

Text Communications: I'm working with Rev. Pam to identify and utilize text software/programming that can be used to text congregants for stewardship and possibly future updates and communications for congregants.

ComCom Extended Meeting: The communications committee will be having an extended meeting April 16th to address communications improvements at UUC.

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

DLFD Report to the Board – April 2023

Children and Youth Programs:

- **Registration Numbers:** Currently 62 families and 98 children have registered for 117 activity slots.
- **Teacher Recruitment:** I have begun recruitment for Summer and Fall RE teachers. We have 40 slots (4 teachers, 10 Sundays) to fill for summer. I have 28 slots to fill for fall: 20 RE teachers, and 4 MSYG advisors, 4 YRUU advisors to fill for fall. 8-9 OWL will be offered as well, led by Rachel, Kendra, Jane, and Andy.
- **Nursery:** I anticipate difficulty staffing the Nursery over the summer. None of our current providers are interested or will be around. Attendance has been light in the nursery, and it may be possible to combine at least toddlers with the pre-K over the summer.
- **MSYG and YRUU:**
 - MSYG had a great time at Shadowlake last month and is looking forward to a hike together this month, potentially with Coming of Age
 - YRUU enjoyed trip to the trampoline park this month and is planning a hike for April.
 - 4 youth have committed to GA so far (2 fewer than last month,) Rachel and Liz Craine will be sponsors.. The current plan is for the 6 of us to travel in one minivan.
 - YRUU is still recovering from the issues of last month. I am hoping to join with some other congregations (Austen Peterson, DRE Williamsburg is spear-heading this) to collaborate on a training for our YRUU advisors and also our youth leadership. I am also looking at ways to provide more structure to the program. I am looking forward to a “reset” in the fall, as several new youth will be joining.
- **Coming of Age:**

We have 8 youth finishing Coming of Age this month. They, along with Victoria Taylor and YRUU are working on a bridging service for May 7.
- **OWL**
 - We have 19 children finishing OWL this month
 - Rachel, Jane Keppel Benson and Kendra McAllister completed training for Adult OWL last month.

Adult Programs this Month:

- Social Justice Film Series: The Reproductive Justice team will host a viewing of the HBO documentary “The Janes” on April 14. DLFD will provide support and advertising.
- What Moves Us continues this month.
- Spiritual Practices: March Zentangles and Mandalas—had about 6 participants. This month, Nature Journalling with Mary Ratliff.

All Ages Activities:

- Family movie night: Matilda was attended by about 16 people. Pancakes were a big hit. The movie “Ratatouille” will be shown on April 28, with Rat themed crafts and of course, homemade ratatouille.
- Looking forward to the Easter hunt for the animals this weekend.

Other DLFD activities:

- I am still over my hours (+20 going into April)
- Working on Summer curriculum—adapting a Lego UU Sources one, which should be fun