

## **UUC Board Meeting Minutes**

**May 11, 2023**

(Approved 6/8/23)

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

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

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

*The agenda was approved unanimously.*

### **Member Forum**

*Molly Lazar presented a request from the Community Service Team to approve a fundraising program for an internally-displaced Ukrainian family.*

### **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 an update of financial status.*

### **Old Business**

- 2023-24 Budget Discussion
- Changes to Policy and Procedures

*After discussion and a few adjustments, the proposed budget was approved unanimously.*

*The Board unanimously approved revisions to seven sections of the Policies and Procedures manual. The Communications section will be approved via email vote after a few additional items are updated and posted for review.*

### **New Business**

- Approve final delegates for the UUA General Assembly
- Congregation Information Meeting (May 21) and Annual Meeting (June 4)
- Request for fundraising for Ukrainian family

*Ally DeHoff and Liz Craine were approved as GA delegates.*

*The proposed budget and other information will be released next week in preparation for the Information Meeting.*

*The Board discussed the request from the Community Service Team to provide funds through half-plates and administrative support to disburse donations from a variety of sources to a specific family in Ukraine. After considering the legal requirements for tax-*

*compared to other possible support programs, the Board did not approve this project.*

**Upcoming**

- Next Board Meeting is June 8, 2023. Gene will prepare the reading.
- Nancy will write the article for the June Newsletter.

*The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.*

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

### Leads Worship and Officiates Rites of Passage

We continued exploring Resistance with the Environmental Justice/ Climate Change group collaborating on the Earth Day service, with a well-received appearance of singer-songwriter Ash Devine. Rev. Kirk Balin, minister emerita from the UUC Roanoke, preached on the role of resistance in the service of love (the central value in the proposed Article 2 revision). Finally, we explored Rest as Resistance – a timely message during this busy time of year.

May worship services will feature many celebrations and ceremonies. The Coming of Age and YRUU members inspired us during the annual Bridging Service. Thanks especially to Victoria Taylor (COA facilitator), all the mentors, and the YRUU advisors for their participation. The coming month will include a child dedication ceremony and the flower ceremony.

We have been inspired by more congregant testimonials in support of the stewardship drive – including those by Joe Cooley and Carol Kern and a slideshow with quotes from those who wrote statements of gratitude during the March 5<sup>th</sup> service. Likewise, our families have created entertaining videos updating us on progress toward our goal.

I officiated at a wedding at Beliveau Winery this weekend, and the parents donated to UUC (they attended a UU in northern Virginia). I look forward to officiating at the wedding for new members Angela Steward and Andrew Burton on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

### Provides Pastoral Care and Presence

I have met with congregants experiencing health issues and difficult life transitions this month – in my office, over the phone, and in health care facilities in the NRV and Roanoke. The Lay Pastoral Care Ministry has likewise been busy offering a listening presence.

### Encourages Spiritual Development for Self and Others

It was a privilege to hear the faith statements (credos) of our Coming of Age youth, some of which were shared with the congregation during the Bridging service.

Conversations on Our Faith has begun a new book, *The Grand Design* by Stephen Hawking.

Ministerial intern Anna Tulou and I are midway through the “What Moves Us” curriculum, having considered the spiritual lives of such UU luminaries as William Ellery Channing, Margaret Fuller, and Sophia Lyon Fahs, and looking forward to learning about James Luther Adams, Bill Schulz, and Thandeka.

In addition to meeting with my spiritual director, I recently met with a colleague who is training to be a Certified Enneagram Teacher, who did an Enneagram Typing interview. (Enneagram is “a system of personality typing that describes patterns in how people interpret the world and manage their emotions.”)

### Witnesses to Social Justice in the Public Square

I continue to work with the Dialogue on Race Jim Crow/White Privilege group. We are planning a group driving tour of the [Christiansburg Institute Driving Tour](#) (which anyone can take on their own), and I'll

share the date as soon as it is determined. The NAACP Religious Affairs committee (of which I am a part) is planning its first in-person meeting since the beginning of the pandemic on Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at Asbury United Methodist in Christiansburg (speaker to be announced). In my role as a member of the Blacksburg Refugee Partnership board, I was pleased to hear that members of one of the first refugee families were sworn in as US citizens; many UUC congregants have supported them over the years.

### Leads Administration

In support of the stewardship pledge drive, I made announcements during worship services and sent letters to early pledgers asking them to consider increasing their pledges and reminding those who had not pledged to do so. After the official end of the pledge drive, I contacted members who haven't pledged to remind them that a financial contribution is a responsibility of membership and make sure they still consider themselves members. So far, four people have let me know they are no longer members (having moved away, joined a new church, or decided not to be involved anymore).

Staff sent out a survey to assess how congregants get information about UUC activities, and to date we have had 85 responses! We've begun analyzing data, which will help us as we work to improve the website and streamline email announcements. We will be experimenting with a quarterly (June-July-August) newsletter. Those who want articles in the newsletter for the summer should submit them by May 25<sup>th</sup>.

We have begun calendaring for the summer, taking into consideration when people will be away – to General Assembly, on vacation, or on maternity leave – so all tasks will be covered. Ann Ruple has volunteered to take on the financial parts of the administrator's job while Ericka is on maternity leave (starting in early July) and will begin training in the next few weeks. Jamie McReynolds will also train as a back-up.

The Committee on Ministries will be collating and analyzing the data gleaned from the feedback groups on people's experience of Worship. We've decided to offer those unable to attend a feedback group to fill out a survey with the questions discussed in the groups.

I will begin annual staff evaluations next week.

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

I was honored to participate in the Installation Service of my friend Rev. Christine Hockman, giving the "charge to the congregation" to the Greenville Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (in South Carolina).

I attended the Blue Ridge Cluster of UU Religious Professionals in Waynesboro last month and will attend the Joseph Jordan Cluster of UU Religious Professionals in Charlottesville next week. I look forward to participating in Ministry Days and General Assembly in Pittsburgh. It looks like we may have as many as 17 people from UUC attending virtually or in person. It turns out we have five delegates in addition to the minister and religious educator, so the board can appoint two more delegates.

### Time away from Blacksburg and UUC

May 15-16, Charlottesville (JJC Meeting)

June 19-25, Pittsburgh, PA for UUMA Ministry Days and UUA General Assembly

**Administrator's Report to the Board  
May 6, 2023**

**Stewardship Update:** As I write this, we have received 157 pledges for \$332,502.00. I will be working on getting pledges updated in Power Church.

**Meetings attended:** ComCom had an extended Meeting in April. We determined priorities for all the subcommittees and will be having a meeting at the end of this month that is dedicated to making website improvements. It was also decided to experiment with a quarterly newsletter.

**Annual Committee Reports:** Committee leaders and Chairs have been contacted to submit annual reports by May 15th.

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

## **DLFD Report to the Board – May 2023**

### **Children and Youth Programs:**

- **Registration Numbers:** Currently 64 families and 101 children have registered for 120 activity slots.
- **Teacher Recruitment:** Recruitment is going well—29/40 slots are filled for summer (73%). 15/28 Fall slots are filled (54%.) I am hoping to have all slots filled before summer RE begins.
- **Nursery:** Jennifer Thomas has been added to our nursery staff and will be available for much of the summer—this is very helpful with the students away!
- **MSYG and YRUU:**
  - MSYG had a nice hike last month, and will have their last meeting this month, where they will invite rising 6th graders.
  - YRUU enjoyed an abbreviated hike and indoor picnic last month, and is having its last meeting after bridging, inviting rising 9th graders to join them.
- **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.
- **Fall 2023:**
  - I am beginning to register families for fall of 2023. Hopefully I will get returning families to register before summer. Our fall programming will begin on August 13—almost a month earlier than in the past, when it started after Labor Day. This brings RE more in line with the school schedule, and adds 4 classes to our RE year.

### **Adult Programs:**

- In April the Reproductive Justice team hosted a viewing of the HBO documentary “The Janes.” 23 people attended, and representatives from Planned Parenthood and New River Abortion Access Fund were present.
- What Moves Us continues this month.

**All Ages Activities:**

- Family movie night: “Ratatouille” had about 10 people in attendance. There will not be another Movie Night this year.
- Parent groups have finished for the year–will resume in the fall.

**Other DLFD activities:**

- I am caught up on my hours.
- Attended Blue Ridge Cluster meeting in April in Waynesboro. Plan to attend Joseph Jordon Cluster meeting in Charlottesville on May 16.

**Vacation:**

I will be taking vacation time Monday, May 29-Saturday June 10. I will be out of town attending my daughter’s wedding (May 31-June 7)