

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert
Board Meeting November 20, 2017
Minutes

Attending: Rev. Julie Forest, Interim Minister; Sarah Gonzales, President; Marty Gronewald, Treasurer; Jane Zaun, Secretary; Susan Hannon, Director at Large; Bruce Elwood, Director at Large.

Absent: Shirley LeMaster, First Vice President; Roger Beaman, Second Vice President.

Visitors: Jerry L'Hommandieu.

1. Chalice Lighting: Rev. Julie gave a reading and lit the chalice.

2. Approval of Minutes: Minutes from Board Meeting on 10/17/17 with amendment from 10/21/17 Church Council were approved as written.

3. Reports:

a. President:

Sarah informed the Board that the Mindfulness Meditation Group, who rented the Church for the one day meditation, was without functioning bathrooms for an hour due to the gardener activities with the water system. There was a motion made, seconded, and passed to refund \$250 to the Mindfulness Meditation Group for the distress.

b. 1st VP:

In the absence of the 1st VP, Sarah reminded the Board of the next Church Council on 2/17/18 at 9:30AM in the Community Room. All Board members and Committee Chairs are expected to attend or send representation.

c. 2nd VP:

The 2nd VP reported via email that the Endowment Committee has been formed with Marion Ellson, Brian Joyner, Carol McDaniel and Jerry L'Hommandieu appointed to the Committee.

d. Treasurer:

Marty informed the Board of the record amount from the Service Auction this year and the Script Drive is underway with additional volunteers to assist.

Marty reported on the TD AmeriTrade Securities that can receive gifts of stock to UUCOD.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to form an in-house capital reserve fund study for strategic maintenance of the church facility and equipment. This study will include representation from the Board, Facilities, Finance Committees and expertise from the congregation.

e. Minister:

Reverend Julie thanked everyone involved for the successful service Auction. She continues to be active in Denominational affairs and will be assisting with two additional ordinations.

She has met with Rabbi David from Temple Isaiah in Palm Springs to form an alliance with community pastors.

She reported the Coming of Sage class is progressing nicely.

She expressed significant concern regarding the janitorial conditions in the church especially on Sunday morning following a very busy Friday and Saturday nights. Following discussion a motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the additional cost of \$100-\$200 to increase custodial maintenance for the sanctuary during November to April season.

4. Current Business:

a. Attitude of Gratitude:

The Board sent gratitude cards to Thera Pacino, Carol Lavoie, Margaret Beaman, Dorian McWain and Julianna McPhee.

b. Committee on Ministry:

Rev. Julie has chosen 2 congregant members to join the newly formed Committee on Ministry; the Board discussed and agreed on their nominee for the Committee. The Committee will meet for the first time in December.

c. Strategic Plan Financial Goal:

The Board agreed to place the financial goal, which was approved on 10/21/17 at the Church Council, as an added task on the Strategic Plan.

d. John McCloud Trust Update:

Marty gave a progress report on the McCloud trust and he is pursuing the matter.

e. Professional Oversight of Church Financial Books:

The Board reviewed currently utilized practices for oversight of financial controls. New practices include written documentation for cash. The Treasurer will work with the Co-Chair of the Financial Committee for additional controls. Marty is researching practices at other UU Churches and will make recommendations next month.

f. Review of Policy Revision Schedule and Responsibility:

The Board reviewed each Board member's selected policy for revision as well as the date to be presented to the Board for first reading.

5. New Business:

a. Church Safety:

The Board discussed procedures for emergency guidelines. Rev. Julie discussed a resource she had emailed to Board members. A congregant has volunteered to meet with the Rancho Mirage first responders (Police and Fire) to acquaint them with UUCOD's location and needs. Sarah presented a draft of procedures; Bruce will review and revise the draft.

b. Stewardship Drive Co-chairs:

Co-chairs for the 2018 Stewardship Drive were discussed. The Board agreed to follow the plan utilized last year that included individual contacts and a kick-off activity.

The Board also discussed the idea of having year-round stewardship and re-defining the role of the 2nd VP to include chairing year round stewardship. This idea will be delegated to the Bylaws Review Committee for development.

c. Appoint Bylaws Review Committee:

Sarah indicated Walter Gendell has agreed to chair this committee; the Board discussed additional members who may agree to be on the committee.

d. First Readings of the Facebook Policy:

The Board read the revised Facebook Policy. The Board discussed additional revisions including the possibility of an employee administering the page with input and monitoring by the new Developmental Minister. The Board agreed with Susan's idea to develop the Open Public Facebook page to include more outreach content related to our social justice commitment and our UUCOD activities. Since the Facebook Policy has guidelines for photos of children, Jane informed the Board that the Child and Youth Safety Policy is silent on child photos; she will revisit the Child and Youth Safety policy for revision to be in accordance with the Facebook Policy. The Board's second reading of the Facebook Policy will be scheduled.

e. Discuss and Approve UUA dues and Stewardship Drive:

The Board discussed including the UUA/PSWD dues in the Stewardship Drive vs. requesting the congregants to give them separately from their pledge. The Board agreed to have the Stewardship Drive, complete the budget, and then, if necessary, make a second request separately for the dues.

6. Closing:

Rev. Julie closed the meeting and extinguished the chalice.

7. Executive Session:

No Executive Session was held.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Zaun, Secretary

11/20/17

Date