

**Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert**  
**Board Meeting, January 16, 2018**  
**Minutes**

**Attending:** Sarah Gonzales, President; Shirley LeMaster, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Roger Beaman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Marty Gronewald, Treasurer; Jane Zaun, Secretary; Bruce Elwood, Director at Large; Susan Hannon, Director at Large.

**Absent:** Rev. Julie Forest, Interim Minister.

**Visitors:** Steve Boyce, Nancy Boyce, Marion Ellson, Sue Caspari, Leslie Gebhart, Vikki Porter, Joni Paddock, Bill Masco, Joan Elliott, LeGrand Velez.

1. Chalice Lighting: Sarah lit the Chalice and read the "Passover Haggadah" from Singing the Living Tradition.
2. Approval of Minutes: Minutes were approved as corrected.
3. Reports:

President:

Sarah reported she has met with Ken Mills who will chair the Search Committee for the Developmental Minister.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:

Shirley reported the next Church Council is Saturday February 17, 2018. She also informed the Board UUCOD has the current EEO Poster in the Office as well as a secure Personnel file.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:

Roger discussed the music fundraiser planned for later in the spring. Sarah reminded the Board that the grant to increase funding for the music program has ended; any funds generated from a music fundraiser will go into the general budget to maintain the music program at its present level. The budget cannot sustain an increase in music funding at this time; however, a goal is to maintain present level of funding for our music program.

Treasurer:

Marty presented his report that included a current statement of financial position and activity for the church. The Christmas Eve "Share the Plate" generated generous funds for the UUA Disaster Fund and Minister's Discretionary Funds. Marty suggested UUCOD consider a monthly "Share the Plate". A motion was made, seconded and passed to have "Share the Plate" on a monthly basis. The Social Justice Committee will be asked to develop a list of organizations with whom to share the plate.

Marty also informed the Board of the significant increase in the December water bill. Bruce agreed to read the water meter weekly and report to the gardener any increase in water usage that might indicate pipe leakage and repairs needed.

Regarding concrete repairs to the patio the Board agreed that since half of the cost Marty charged to the Building Maintenance Fund, the remaining half should be charged to the reserve account.

Minister:

Rev. Julie is currently on vacation until the end of January.

4. Current Business:

a. Attitude of Gratitude:

The Board sent a Gratitude Card to Chris Ralston-Cummins.

b. Stewardship Drive Timeline Report

Sarah read a letter she composed to the entire congregation of members and friends for the Stewardship campaign. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the letter; Sarah will send it to Chris Eager, Chair of the Stewardship campaign. Dates for the campaign are 2/11/18-3/18/18. A chili cook-off is planned for 2/11/18 to start the campaign.

c. Special Board Meeting: Peace Labyrinth, February 18, 11:45 AM following Worship Service:

There will be a Special Board Meeting for the entire Congregation on 2/18/18 during which the Labyrinth Committee will address the following questions as well as any additional questions posed by members of the congregation.

Members of the Board and guests posed questions for the members of the Labyrinth Committee who were present at the Board Meeting:

Shirley LeMaster:

What will be the cost per month and basis of that cost to sustain maintenance of the Labyrinth on an ongoing basis?

What is the strategic plan to continue raising funds for ongoing maintenance?

What legal documents are necessary to gift the Labyrinth to UUCOD?

Marty Gronewald:

What are the anticipated insurance costs and increase in liability for the Labyrinth?

Marty requested a blueprint of the Labyrinth to show UUCOD's insurance carrier to obtain an estimate for insurance costs.

Bruce Elwood:

What are the contingency funds for long term as well as short term repairs and maintenance?

Who will manage the maintenance?

Who will take responsibility to check for maintenance needs?

Does the Labyrinth committee have a copy of Rancho Mirage permits and does that address parking concerns?

Marion Ellson (Guest): How will the concern of children playing and skateboarding on the Labyrinth be addressed?

Sarah reminded the Board and guests that UUCOD has a policy for accepting gifts although that policy may need to be updated to address Labyrinth concerns.

d. Developmental Minister Search Application:

The Board reviewed UUCOD's Congregational Application for Developmental Ministry. Sarah indicated the congregational survey and this Application will be made available to the entire congregation via the webpage. There was a motion made, seconded and passed to send this Application for Developmental Ministry to the UUA.

e. Facilities Committee and Report from Strategic Maintenance Study Group:

Steve Boyce reported the Strategic Maintenance Study Group has identified several significant important areas requiring maintenance.

- 1). The Air Conditioning Units are 12 years old and have already had times of non-functioning requiring the building to close. Steve obtained one initial bid to replace both units.
- 2). The roof shows signs of wear with areas likely to leak or be damaged in wind. Steve obtained one initial bid on repair.
- 3). Asphalt in the parking lot shows significant signs of wear and damage.
- 4) Carpet in the Sanctuary and foyer need to be replaced.

The Board requested additional bids on each item. For the air conditioning the Board requested information on whether or not the two AC Units can be moved off the roof; can they be replaced in phases; what would be the cost of adding ducts to section the community room? Steve agreed to gather additional information and bids to repair these areas identified for maintenance.

The Board discussed methods of funding these critical maintenance needs. A motion was made, seconded and passed to explore a short term loan from the UUA. Sarah will seek information from the UUA on costs for a short term loan.

5. New Business:

a. Minister's Salary/Housing Resolution (annual):

A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the minister's allocation for housing. 90% of Reverend Julie's salary is designated as housing for tax purposes.

b. Designate Endowment Fund Investment and Management Policy to the Endowment Committee:

Roger reported the Endowment Committee has been reviewing the policy for endowment funds.

The Board agreed that the Endowment Committee will research how other UU congregations manage their endowment funds. Following their research they will make recommendations regarding management of the endowment funds or to arrange additional options for bequeaths to UUCOD.

6. Closing:

Sarah extinguished the chalice and adjourned the meeting.

7. Executive Session:

There was no executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jane Zaun, Secretary

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1/16/2018