

**Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert**  
**Board Meeting July 17, 2018**  
**Minutes**

**Attending:** Sarah Gonzales, President; Vikki Porter, 1st Vice President; Jerry L'Hommedieu, Interim Treasurer, Jane Zaun, Secretary; Nancy Boyce, Director at Large.

**Absent:** Susan Hannon, Director at Large. (Position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President is unfilled.)

**Guests:** Steve Boyce; Barbara Storms; Fred Bloss; Leslie Gebhart; Marty Gronewald, Out-going Treasurer.

**1. Chalice Lighting:**

As she lit the Chalice, Sarah Gonzales gave a reading by Gary Kowalski, UU Minister and author.

**2. Voices of the Congregation:**

Fred Bloss reported on the newly installed HVAC system. He has worked with Desert Air Company to locate and regulate the sensors and the thermostats to provide the most effective cooling. He is still adjusting controls and monitoring the system. The Board agreed to limit the number of people with access to the control code.

**3. Approval of Minutes:**

The Minutes from the 6/19/18 Board Meeting were approved as written.

**4. Reports:**

**President:**

Sarah welcomed the new Board members, Vikki Porter and Nancy Boyce. She reminded all Board members of the Leadership Covenant agreed upon at the previous Board's retreat in September 2017.

Sarah reported Rev. Barbara is recommending a new communication program called Constant Contact. There is a nominal monthly cost that will be covered by discontinuing two other programs no longer being used. There was a motion made, seconded and passed to approve a trial of Constant Contact.

Sarah has spoken with Susan Hannon who has agreed to work with Rev. Barbara to create a Communication Policy and improve communication within our community.

### 1st Vice President:

Since this is the initial Board Meeting for Vikki Porter, she had no report.

### Treasurer:

Marty gave an end of fiscal year report as of 6/30/18 including financial position, all treasurer functions transferred, all digital files on G Drive, and Books turned over to AMS accounting service.

Jerry L'Hommedieu, Interim Treasurer's report stated the transition from previous treasurer started on July 1 and was finalized by July 9, 2018. His report included amounts for year-end cash and year-end restricted funds. The new accounting service, AMS Tax, began review of the Fiscal Year financial statement on July 9, 2018. AMS has indicated, when their review is completed, they request Board approval to make any changes. Jerry indicated he recommends the format of financials change and AMS is suggesting the names of reports to change.

Jerry also indicated there is an envelope of foreign currency that the Church has been holding for 4-5 years. He states most of the currency are Mexican pesos that have been devalued and, in total, the foreign currency is estimated to be worth under \$20.00. Since redeeming the notes would cost more than they are worth, he recommended the currency be destroyed.

There was a motion made by Vikki Porter, seconded by Jane Zaun, and passed to approve the destruction of foreign currency notes.

### Minister:

Rev. Barbara reported she has met with the Worship Committee on the Order of Service and her schedule of worship services for the fall 2018, met with the Pastoral Care Team on a small group process for those feeling troubled in these times., responded to calls regarding the decease of two older members of UUCOD, worked with members of Insight Community of the Desert and two UUCOD members on a six month, 7 session "White Awake" curriculum, joined other UUCOD members and friends in the community Rally for Families in Palm Springs and has met with President Sarah several times regarding UUCOD administrative items. She will attend the UUA 5-day program for Interim and Developmental Ministry, August 20-24<sup>th</sup>, in Minneapolis.

She starts her contract on August 6, 2018.

## 5. Current Business:

### a. Attitude of Gratitude:

The Board sent gratitude cards to Fred Bloss, Bill Edwards, and Lew Pusch.

**b. Approve Revisions of 2018-19 Budget:**

Sarah reviewed proposed revisions of the budget approved by the congregation in April 2018. In total the changes equal 1.5% of the original budget which is within the 5% limit in our By-Laws.

Vikki Porter moved to approve the budget revisions; Jane Zaun seconded, and the motion passed.

**c. Approve Ministers Housing Designation:**

There was a motion made, seconded, and passed to approve Rev. Barbara's housing designation for IRS purposes.

**d. Approve the Promissory Note to Renew Church Mortgage:**

Sarah reported she received notification that the Promissory Note to renew the Church mortgage was expiring. She called a quorum of Board Members for an Ad Hoc Board Meeting on Sunday, July 15 to approve the Promissory Note. Our mortgage is now renewed for 5 years.

**e. Approve Finance Committee Chair:**

There was a motion made, seconded, and passed to approve Roger Beaman as Chair of the Finance Committee.

**f. Review Gift Agreement of the Labyrinth and Approve the Labyrinth Standing Committee:**

Leslie Gebhart presented a summary of progress towards completion of the Peace Labyrinth including a letter from Architect, Dan Spencer.

There was a motion made, seconded, and passed to approve the formation of the Labyrinth Standing Committee with Leslie Gebhart and Vikki Porter as Co-Chairs.

Sarah Gonzales, Jerry L'Hommedieu, Bryan Joyner, Leslie Gebhart and Vikki Porter will meet to clarify the process for the Labyrinth Standing Committee regarding coordination and communication with other committees. The Labyrinth Committee will be a Program Committee of the Board until the next opportunity for By-Law approval as a Standing Committee.

**g. Approve Revised Job Description for Office Administrator:**

There was a motion made, seconded, and passed to approve the revised job description for Office Administrator.

6. New Business:

a. Discussion on Meaning of Stewardship and 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Position:

Sarah spoke of a question regarding stewardship posed by a member at the Congregational Meeting in April 2018. The question was based on a concept of stewardship that included pledge drives but also included a broader concept. The Board engaged in a lengthy discussion about the meaning of stewardship involving service, shared leadership and community building. The Board agreed to further explore stewardship in a comprehensive manner.

b. Proposal for the Nominating Committee:

Sarah announced to the Board that Jane Zaun has agreed to fill the 2<sup>nd</sup> VP role. There was a motion made, seconded, and passed to send this proposal to the Nominating Committee.

c. Approve Share the Plate for September:

Sarah explained the Worship Committee has requested an additional Sunday for Share the Plate. The Board agreed to a Share the Plate Sunday in September dedicated to an immigration rights group.

d. Approve a Search Committee for RE Coordinator:

The Board agreed to establish an RE Coordinator search committee to include a board member, RE committee member and a member from the congregation. Nancy Boyce volunteered to be the Board representative on the Search Committee.

The Chalice was extinguished.

The meeting was adjourned.

The Board entered Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jane Zaun, Secretary

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Date