

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert
Board of Directors Meeting, January 15, 2019
Minutes

Attending:

Sarah Gonzales, President; Vikki Porter, 1st Vice President; Jane Zaun, 2nd Vice President; Jerry L'Hommedieu, Treasurer; Rod Belshee, Secretary ; Nancy Boyce, Director at Large; Susan Hannon, Director at Large, Rev. Barbara, Minister.

Members: Dan Spencer, Terry LeMaster

Guests: Art Gardner, ESSi; Mark Howard, La Paloma Homes

1. Opening and Chalice Lighting:

Sarah called the meeting to order at 6:30pm, and Reverend Barbara offered a reading on shared leadership. Sarah introduced our guests.

2. Check-in:

5. Discussion with La Paloma Homes on Engineering Proposal:

Art reviewed the proposal from ESSi to expand our storm-water retention basin for the benefit of the La Paloma Homes development. The expanded basin would have a surface area of 16,244 square feet, compared to the current 7,455 square feet (more than double), and an increased depth up to 5 feet for a volume of 53,488 cubic feet compared to the current 15,186 cubic feet (3.5 times bigger). This compares to the ESSi assurance at our August 14, 2018 Board meeting "...approximately 25% larger volume, mostly achieved through depth and with only a slight increase in footprint". ESSi suggested that could be remedied with steps such as rip-rap (steeper sides) and landscaping. As well, the buried pipe was initially described to be along the edge of the sidewalk to not jeopardize the labyrinth, but the drawing shows it following a diagonal route much closer to the labyrinth.

ESSi requested a final answer today, not allowing time to explore any potential remediation. The Board rejected the proposal and notified ESSi and La Paloma Homes.

6d. Garage Sale:

Nancy Boyce reported on the garage sales that she and Carol LaVoie have been conducting. Many people not normally involved in church activities participated. \$747.77 was generated for the

minister's discretionary fund, enabling delivery of Christmas gifts to two members. Some more spendy items, including furniture, artwork and collectibles will be sold online, and potentially we could repeat the garage sales next Fall. The Board agreed by unanimous consent that current and future proceeds would continue to flow into the minister's discretionary fund.

2. Check-in:

4. Approval of the Minutes:

Vikki moved to accept the minutes, Susan seconded, and the Board approved.

5. Reports:

a. President:

Sarah requested that Children's Religious Education supplies budget be increased from \$100 to \$300. Jerry so moved, Nancy seconded, and the Board approved.

Sarah restated our Dog policy. Certified service dogs are allowed, but comfort dogs are not. We have had recent violations, including urination. Sarah will communicate with the particular Interest Groups.

Sarah gave the thermostat access code to the various groups that rent or use the church.

The Board by unanimous consent agreed to transfer \$100 to the music fund in memory of Dorian's mother, in lieu of the usual flowers.

b. 1st Vice President:

For the upcoming Church Council (March 2), Vikki provided to Committee Chairs a one page "what have we done to meet the strategic goals", as well as "what do you need" and "what are your plans to meet the strategic goals" This will feed into the Annual Congregational Meeting and report. Vikki also asked the Board for ideas for activities for the Church Council such as the interdependent web that Rev Barbara led last time.

The Communications Committee is working on a plan for Facebook. Videos are now linked, and Vikki encourages us to share and re-post.

The Board discussed the process of adding a church event, which is to check with the church Administrator (Andrea) at least one week ahead to reserve, and then Vikki can create a Facebook event.

c. 2nd Vice President:

The Ad Hoc Stewardship Steering Committee approved a mission statement. The committee meets monthly, has introduced stewardship to the congregation, and is working with membership for new member orientation.

d. Treasurer:

Jerry L'Hommedieu emailed a written report and three December 31, 2018 financial reports (Statements of Financial Position, Year-to-Date Budget vs Actual, and Activity) to the Board on January 11, and focused his meeting time on additional points and questions.

Treasurer's Report (written)

As of December 31st, the church had \$116,464.64 in its bank accounts. There were no short-term liabilities and reserved and restricted funds totaled \$42,755.41, leaving a balance of \$73,709.23 in unrestricted available funds. The Labyrinth Fund ended the month with a balance of \$5,155.98.

Contributions at our Christmas Eve service netted a total of \$1,495.25; half of which was allocated to the Minister's Discretionary Fund and the other half was directed to the UUA Disaster Relief Fund. In December, we received nearly \$1,200.00 dedicated to various sponsored organizations including Safe House in the Desert and Oasis School Migrant Worker program.

Fiscal-year-to-date expenses for the Music Program total \$8,402.48 against a total annual budget of \$12,350.00. Of the remaining \$3,947.52 budget balance, \$3,520.00 is needed for the Music Director's and accompanist's salary/expense for the remainder of the year. The Music Program Fund has a balance of \$2,664.69 which can be drawn upon to offset over-budget expenditures.

FY 18-19 budget amounts and year-to-date expenses have been sent to committee chairs for discussion with committee members at January meetings. They have been asked to develop proposed budgets for FY 19-20 and submit them to Roger Beaman and myself by the first part of February. We should have a solid working draft of the budget for next fiscal year by the February Board meeting. We are working toward having year-end contribution statements available for members and friends by January 20. W-2's and 1099's will be issued to employees and contractors by the end of January. The kickoff for next year's Pledge Drive begins on January 13th.

Treasurer's Discussion

The Pledge Drive in just a few days has produced about \$16K, 10% of the goal. Jerry sent reminder letters for unpaid pledges of the prior year, with some results. Pledge packets have been handed out, as well as statements. The remainder will be mailed.

Jerry met with Dorian on the music budget, and Dorian will prepare a plan for the remainder of this year and a budget proposal for next. Dorian will propose an increase in the FY19 music program budget at the February Board meeting.

e. Minister's Report:

Minister's Discussion

Rev. Barbara reports hearing great feedback on the services provided by Rev Don and Rev Carolyn.

Margaret Beaman has produced a membership map to allow members to know who lives close to them.

AA is looking for a place to meet, but the Wednesday date conflicts with the Wednesday DOS choir.

Rev Barbara encourages us to attend the Regional UUA meeting (\$100 before March 1). There are lots of workshops, and one session on re-thinking Children's Religious Education (and unfortunately Denise is not available).

Minister's Written report *(this is a condensed version of her written report)*

Stewardship: Stewardship is an intentionally broad term that we are shaping in our congregational life. There is attention to, protection of, and affection for the institution and its people; a commitment to growing strength, health and wholeness, not just in the present but through time.

Developmental Ministry: Pres Sarah and Rev Barbara will have a follow-up call with Sarah Gibb Millspaugh at the end of the month.

Stewardship of Worship

Dec 21 – Solstice service that Rev Barbara created with Josette and others.

Dec 24 – The Christmas eve sermon "Joseph's Dream" was very well received.

Dec 30 – Rev Don was in the pulpit and as always provided a beautiful experience.

Jan 6 – Rev Carolyn Price was in the pulpit and connected in a very meaningful way here at UUCOD.

Jan 13 – Annual Stewardship Drive Kick – "Treasure Seeking" excellent testimonials.

January 20 – Waking up White: Why we are doing this work.

Membership: Rev Barbara heard that there is a record number of folks signed up to attend new members meetings. Margaret Beaman has created a google map of member's homes that we will be able to use for fellowship, pastoral help & community building.

Social Justice/ Community /Charity: There was so much generous charity: of time and treasure with justice building in December.

Rev Barbara will be going to the Women's March on the 19th – in her collar, and has been invited to be part of a Solidarity community interfaith gathering in Rancho Mirage, sponsored by the Jewish Federation of the Desert.

There is an AA group who would love to meet again at UUCOD. They are one of only two groups who have a signer as part of the meeting. They often are over 100 people. Currently they meet Wednesday night. They meet 630 – 8pm.

Lifespan faith Development: CRE and RE visioning will be on the agenda. Building Your Own Theology, 6 weekly sessions – Thursdays – to start in February

UUA: Rev Barbara will attend the SW District meeting on April 26th through 28th in Long Beach, and the General Assembly in Spokane at the end of June.

Weekly schedule:

Monday – Sabbath

Tuesday & Thursday from 1-5, office hours

Tuesday & Thursday evenings - committee meetings.

Rev Barbara is in the office at other times, as needed, and takes one day for writing at home either Wednesday or Friday.

REV. BARBARA FAST’S SUNDAY SERVICE PREACHING SCHEDULE.

SEPTEMBER	9 & 23
OCTOBER	7, 14, 21
NOVEMBER	11, 18
DECEMBER	2, 16, (21st solstice) & 24
JANUARY	13, 20
FEBRUARY	3, 10, 17
MARCH	3, 17, 24
APRIL	7, 21
MAY	5, 12
JUNE	2 & 9 or 16

6. Current Business:

a. Attitude of Gratitude:

The Board sent a gratitude card to Linda Moretti, who has joined the Ad Hoc Stewardship Steering Committee.

b. Board Retreat, February 16 2019: Will be held at Sarah’s house.

c. Establish Ad Hoc Stewardship Steering Committee: Approved earlier in the meeting.

d. Garage Sales Plan: Discussed earlier in the meeting.

7. New Business:

a: Review Building Use Policy:

Sarah presented some changes to the Building Use Policy, and increasing compliance. Event requests must be submitted in advance and approved by the Minister or Board.

The draft proposes that all groups of 20 people or more need to pay a \$50 cleaning fee. Roberto currently cleans every other Friday, and if there has been a large event then he also comes in Sunday morning. The \$50 is to pay for that extra cleaning. Terry LeMaster cautioned about unintended consequences – currently groups try to clean up after themselves, but behavior could change if they have to pay a cleaning fee anyway. Maybe we should consider a deposit rather than fee, and only charge if calling Roberto in is required.

We need to add a paragraph regarding the labyrinth rental and use.

The SUBUD group no longer meets here on Tuesday evening and we need to get the key back.

b. Congregational Meeting Planning May 5, 2019:

c. Budget Development Brain Storm:

Jerry is getting budget requests from all Committee Chairs. The Board is filling in salaries. There is some overlap of Outreach and Social Justice. Jerry is encouraging an increase to Membership (e.g. a new member packet) and Stewardship. Sarah remarked that the Board also needs to budget for Regional and UUA General Meetings and leadership development in general, as well as social luncheons such as pizzas.

The current Children's Religious Education (CRE) budget is insufficient to allow time for the RE coordinator to prepare for sessions. There are few to none kids who attend, and we have insufficient funding.

8. Closing. The Chalice was extinguished.

9. Adjournment. The Board Meeting was adjourned by Sarah at 8:57 PM.

10. Executive Session. The Board met in Executive Session.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rod Belshee, Secretary

Date

Approved: _____, 2019