

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert
Board of Directors Meeting, April 16, 2019
Minutes

Attending:

President Sarah Gonzales, 1st Vice President Vikki Porter, 2nd Vice President Jane Zaun, Secretary Rod Belshee, Director at Large Susan Hannon, Director at Large Nancy Boyce, Reverend Barbara Fast.

Present by phone: Treasurer Jerry L'Hommedieu

Absent: none

Congregational Members: none

1. Opening and Chalice Lighting:

Sarah called the meeting to order at 6:33pm, and Reverend Barbara shared an opening message.

2. Check-in:

3. Approval of the Minutes:

The March Board meeting minutes were approved.

4. Voices of the Congregation:

None. <Note: Terry LeMaster had offered to attend and give a S2S2S presentation to the Board but Sarah suggested that he present next month for the benefit of new Board members.>

5. Reports:

a. President:

The **Annual Congregational Meeting** will be May 5. The Budget Review on April 14 was very well received. Jerry did a great job of providing an open view of our finances and the decisions made by the Board, particularly the music budget. This should allow the Annual Meeting to progress very smoothly.

We will **celebrate our volunteers** on May 5. Two volunteer couples will be absent so Jane will give an advance shout-out next Sunday (Joni and Bill, Denise and Chris).

Katy Faas will be our delegate at the **UUA General Assembly** in Spokane, June 19-23 2019. The Board discussed also providing an online video connection at the church (cost \$160), which Jane will lead if she is available.

Sarah had created 12 **Board Policy binders** last year, but they are now likely not current. She proposed to distribute the contents on a thumb-drive this year instead of physical binders, and Andrea will always keep the official set. Rod suggested putting the current version online so that we always have the current version.

The **Children's Religious Education re-visioning** on May 7 was very well attended. Board members who attended reported that it was very positive and supportive. Two young adults attended and were very encouraged and reported that they felt supported. Many ideas were discussed. The next step is the District UUA meeting with a session titled "Is Sunday School Dead"?

b. 1st Vice President:

Safety Committee: Reviewed issues found during safety audit and developed recommendations for board approval (see Rod Belshee proposals). Waiting for proposed emergency action plan structure from Jerry L'Hommedieu. Seeking bids for fire inspection issues including sprinkler system and kitchen suppression system. New member invited to join (referral from Rod).

Communications: Developed promotional releases for Kurt Jordan concert and the Forum on Climate Change. Sent to both local MSM and shared on social media platforms. Also working on developing content for UUCOD public FaceBook page. Events are also on the Desert Sun calendar, and Rancho Mirage Facebook page (boosted).

Church Council: Seeking basic organizational info from committee chairs with focus on shared ministry and stewardship. Intended to be simple and quick.

Women's Retreat: Bids from Borrego Springs Resort came in very favorably, matching the rate of the January 2016 retreat (\$300 pp/double occupancy for two nights, 3 meals for 25 participants). Tentative dates Jan. 10-12, 2020. Some funds will be available for financial assistance or donations.

Jewish Federation Faith Community Security workshop, April 17: Vikki, Rev. Barbara and Rod will be attending.

c. 2nd Vice President: *(this is a condensed version of her written report)*

LGBT Community Leadership Council: Jane attended the LGBT Community Leadership Council in Palm Springs on March 26th. Jane reports that the Leadership Council has been largely Palm Springs focused but she is starting to find some central valley connections. Jane met the Director of Dinners for Prime Timers of the Desert, and followed up with an email elaborating on our Labyrinth, S2S2S,

and Kurt Jordan's recital. The Executive Director of Desert Business Association announced Coachella Media (a radio station for the LGBT community at 105.6) is going to assist non-profits to produce podcasts, so Jane forward that information to the Communications Committee to explore.

The next meeting for the LGBT Community Leadership Council will be on Tuesday 5/14/19 at 5:30-7:00 in the Hyatt Hotel, Palm Springs. Jane will be out of town; Sarah might be able to attend.

Stewardship Steering Committee: Jane met on 4/2/19 with a member of the Communication Committee; we explored how we could work together. Along with Rev. Barbara we exchanged some ideas for the Volunteer Appreciation Sunday on May 5th, which is also Music Sunday, our celebration of a successful pledge drive and the Congregational Annual Meeting. The Stewardship Committee examined our year one goals and agreed that while we have touched on each goal there needs to be continuing emphasis.

We discussed the Mentoring/Buddy Program feedback to date from people who are engaged in both aspects of it. We discussed the roles of Membership and Stewardship Committees including how they might work together and decided to invite Randy Steele, Membership Chair, to a meeting to clarify and plan for future role responsibilities. That meeting is scheduled for April 25th at 5:00pm.

d. Treasurer:

Treasurer's Report (oral)

Pledges total \$165,045 with one more pledge today (goal was \$165,000). We began the pledge drive with 119 pledging units; 95 units pledged. Of the 24 non-pledging units, most have moved or are no longer planning on attending services for a variety of reasons.

Treasurer's Report (written) *(this is a condensed version of his written report)*

As of March 31st, the church had \$118,213.52 in its bank accounts. There were no short-term liabilities and reserved and restricted funds totaled \$54,661.39 which includes \$11,932.89 in pledges for next year. This leaves \$63,352.13 in unrestricted available funds.

For the month, expenses exceeded revenues by \$10,692.36, largely due to \$9,085.00 spent on repair and painting of the pergola. Due to large pending expenses like insurance and property tax as well as diminishing pledge receipts for this year, we may likely see deficit spending for the remainder of the fiscal year. The Labyrinth Fund ended the month with a balance of 4,894.56 and the March share-the-plate amount for Desert AIDS Project was \$650.00.

The FY 19-20 budget has been finalized and will be presented for approval to the congregation at the May 5th annual meeting. Revenue and expenditures are balanced at \$229,885.

As of April 9th, we have 28 people who have purchased tickets to the May 11th concert and we have received \$602.71. All proceeds from this concert and the May 5th plate collections will be for the benefit of the UUCOD Music Program Fund.

With Board approval, Sarah Gonzales will become co-chairperson of the Endowment Committee with Roger Beaman as of July 1. Earl Hoover has joined the committee and we are working toward a launch of a planned giving program sometime in the next fiscal year. Roger Beaman reported that the trustee has reached a settlement with the IRS regarding the McCloud Trust funds.

e. Minister's Report:

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

Developmental Ministry: Stewardship

Lifespan Spiritual Growth for 2019-2020:

April – Children's Religious Education Visioning: 12 folks gathered to vision possible CRE programming: April 7. We listened to our youth and explored various ways Religious Education can take place at UUCOD beyond the classroom model. Follow up at the District meeting April 27 -28.

May - Facilitate vision/mission process and appreciate what is already happening for Adult Spiritual Growth Team and programming for coming year.

To Do: Follow up on Care Team Initiatives.

Membership Committee: How to foster meaningful connections after folks become members? Most Board members agreed to a suggestion to allow individual welcomes during the service once attendance is light. The Worship Committee unanimously asked for a return of the Story of All Ages. We are working on using technology to foster small group opportunities as well as social and spiritual connections.

Social Justice: Early next Fall there will be a congregational invitation into Non Violent Communication Practice training, beginning with a Sunday Worship September 22. The process/ criteria for choosing who is our "Share the Plate" is being clarified with an intention to bring more folks into the process. April 27 & 28 here at UUCOD- Environmental Justice programming is moving ahead with focused lay leadership efforts and Sunday speaker.

All Congregation Pot Luck Seder Saturday April 20th 5-7:30. 43 people have signed up!

Worship: The calendar is being filled for Summer and Fall. We still need July dates filled. Rev. Barbara will be preaching July 7 and August 25. Rev. Barbara received positive feedback from the Board on the new Order Of Worship.

MARCH 24 - Hints of Gladness: "Opelske"

Rev Barbara Fast

MARCH 31- Waging Peace: Personal practices to grow beloved community.

Pres. Sarah

APRIL 7th- About Passover and its Prequel: I am Miriam

Rev. Barbara

APRIL -14 - The Day the Sun Turned Red- spiritual lessons learned from living through fires.
Rev. Dr. Don

Expanding Ministry: UUA encourages Affiliated Ministers in the community, and discussion are in process to formalize roles for both Rev. Carolyn and Rev. Don.

COMMUNITY Rev. Barbara attends the Mid Valley Interfaith Council lunches. Rev. Barbara, Vikki and Rod will attend the Security Through Resiliency program on April 17 at the Jewish Federation of the Desert, and Rev. Barbara and Josette will attend the Pacific Southwest District Meeting on April 25-27 in Long Beach.

SCHEDULE: Reverend Barbara will be away May 17-June 2 to visit Vienna /Europe with Jonathan as he does research on a book he is writing. She did not take her week of time in February or March.

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, usually Wednesday.

6. Old Business:

a. Update on Foyer Floor Covering

Rod reported that there are many options and it depends largely on the priorities of the members. The basic trade-offs are contemporary aesthetic, environmental concerns, acoustics and cost. Each of these has a full gradient of potentials, so none are absolute. For example, Rod explained that, alternatives provide a full gamut of environmental considerations. Similarly, we have considerable latitude with acoustics. Our sanctuary was designed with non-parallel walls to eliminate reverb and our sound-absorbing chairs both assist people with hearing challenges, and we have a sound system with an equalizer so that we can mic the presenters to emphasis clarity of voice tones and mic the musicians to give a wider, richer experience.

We have an ad hoc sub-committee of four people who can make a recommendation once the overall priorities are clear, and we suggest a short survey of membership. The Board agreed to a short survey of membership.

b. Update on Choir Chairs

Fifteen chairs were ordered April 11 with an expected arrival date of around April 25, in advance of the May 5 Music Sunday.

c. Appoint a Technology Team

Vikki suggested that we split the conversation between the Digital Assets of the church and infrastructure issues.

Digital Assets. After discussion, Vikki moved and Jane seconded a motion that the Board direct domain name ownership be transferred to UUCOD, the hosting stay the same for now, and that we invite a UUA Regional Technology Advisor (Rev. Christopher Wulff) to evaluate the existing web development platform and give us a recommendation. The Board approved the motion.

Internet and Phone Provider. After discussion, Nancy moved and Susan seconded a motion to switch our UUCOD internet provider to Frontier, including two land lines, for \$120/month, and the Board approved the motion.

No action was taken on appointing a Technology Team.

d. Covenant with Affiliated Ministers

(Discussed in Minister's report.)

e. General Assembly Delegates

(Discussed in President's report.)

f. Report on CRE Revisioning

(Discussed in Minister's report.)

7. New Business:

a. Nominating Committee

The Board approved the nomination of Randy as the Board-nominated member of the Nominating Committee.

b. Approval of purchase of EXIT signs

Rod briefly explained the three types of EXIT signs, and the recommendation. Replacing the existing (failed) Tritium EXIT signs are NOT recommended since they become radioactive waste that we must pay \$90 per sign to dispose. Jane moved and Vikki seconded that we approve \$375 for the

purchase of new photoluminescent EXIT signs, and \$450 for the disposal of the existing Tritium ones, and the Board approved.

c. Approval of Purchase of New Folding Tables and Chairs for the Church

Susan moved and Jane seconded a motion to approved \$700 for the purchase of 48 folding chairs, and \$350 for three folding tables, and the Board approved.

9. Adjournment. The Chalice was extinguished and the Board Meeting was adjourned by Sarah at 8:42 PM.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Rod Belshee, Secretary

Date

Approved: _____, 2019