

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert
Board of Directors Meeting, June 18, 2019
Minutes

Attending:

President Sarah Gonzales, 1st Vice President Vikki Porter, Secretary Rod Belshee, Director at Large Susan Hannon, Reverend Barbara Fast, Director at Large-elect Carol LaVoie, 2nd Vice President-elect Barbara Storms.

Present by phone: 2nd Vice President (and President-elect) Jane Zaun

Absent: Treasurer Jerry L'Hommedieu, Director at Large Nancy Boyce

Congregational Members: Ken Mills, Committee on Ministry

1. Opening and Chalice Lighting:

Sarah called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and Rev. Barbara shared an opening message.

2. Check-in:

3. Approval of the Minutes:

The May Board meeting minutes were approved as written.

4. Executive Session: Assessment of Shared Developmental Ministry

The Board met in Executive session from 6:05PM until 7:02PM.

5. Reports:

a. President:

Final Report: Sarah simply signed off her term as President by referring to her time as a Labor of Love. She absolutely loves the community and it was very important for her during our tough times that this beloved community survive. *Her stabilizing leadership has been a true gift.*

b. 1st Vice President: *(written report)*

Safety Committee. Rod updated us on the progress of facilities safety issues and revelations. Jerry continues to update the Emergency Response policy/plan he drafted. Review of potential application of CERT training for Safety Committee and Board members and others. Looking at info provided by Shanti and options for local training. Top priority: recruit new people for roles as we shape response teams. Info meeting originally planned for end of June postponed until fall because of schedule conflicts.

Women's Retreat. Contract signed with Borrego Springs Resort for Jan. 10-12, 2020, for 25 (including minister) UUCOD women at \$310/pp for two nights and three meals plus program. Invitations will go out early July through Constant Contact and announcements to be made on Facebook, weekly newsletter, etc. Deadline of Oct. 10 for registration. Fellowships of up to 50% will be offered to those in need as funds allow.

Galilee Center. A serendipitous Social Justice effort underway to provide Galilee Center with much needed supplies to cope with asylum seekers ICE is dropping into Valley. Leslie G. and Vikki are getting supplies donated to the center as needed.

c. 2nd Vice President:

Stewardship Steering Committee: The Ongoing Stewardship Steering Committee met on June 4th with all members present.

We reviewed Appreciation Sunday on May 5th and agreed it was a success. We would like to continue a special day for Appreciation of all volunteers.

We reviewed and discussed our joint meeting with the Membership Chair on April 25th. We all agreed that the orientation program could be more robust by adding another session. Following the two orientation sessions and Induction conducted by Membership, adding an additional session to the orientation process is recommended. This additional session can be managed by the Stewardship Steering Committee with focus on new member questions, ongoing orientation to UUCOD with specific informational items that new members might like to know, and connection with established members via the mentoring process.

We reviewed the membership process in the By-laws and agreed there is a step missing in notification to Membership and Stewardship of people who join the Church without going through the formal orientation process. Membership and Stewardship can pursue a process to address the missing step.

We agreed to recommend to the Board that At Large Board members become a part of the Ongoing Stewardship Steering committee as well as becoming liaisons to other committees.

Next Meeting is on Tuesday August 6, 2019 at 10:00am in the Community Room.

d. Treasurer:

Treasurer's Report: *(oral, from Barbara Storms as Finance Committee member)*

The Finance Committee discussed the merits of continuing the Bookkeeping service and decided to continue as-is.

June 19 addition: Jerry moved (by email ahead of the meeting), Sarah seconded, and the Board approved (by email voting June 19) to renew the workmen's comp insurance and the Earthquake Insurance (\$3986).

Treasurer's Report: *(written, as of June 11)*

As of May 31st, the church had \$112,183.85 in its bank accounts. There were no short-term liabilities and reserved and restricted funds totaled \$64,600 which includes \$16,173 in pledges for next year. This leaves \$47,583 in unrestricted available funds.

Year to date total revenues are \$204,002; the annual budget projected revenues of \$198,000. Year to date expenses are \$174,023 versus the annual budget amount of \$221,354.

Music Sunday and Kurt Jordan's concert resulted in \$4,640 being added to the Music Fund reserve account; bringing its total balance to \$7,404. The increased funding almost offsets the difference between the Music Program's next year budget request and the amount budgeted. The remaining \$2,765 will be used to offset expenses for Guest Musicians in this year's budget.

We are following on only seven pledge units who are behind on pledge payments. We estimate only \$1,370 is at risk due to financial hardship which is well below the \$4,700 projected shrinkage. Total pledge amount deemed at risk is \$3,845 although we anticipate we'll receive most of the balance. Nine significant pledging units did not pledge this year and I'm recommending some discussion and follow up on these individuals.

e. Minister's Report: *(combined oral and written)*

Office: Reverend Barbara said Thank you, Thank you, Thank you for the beautiful office renewal. She is deeply appreciative.

Shared Ministry: As Rev. Barbara reflects on our shared ministry and comments that we have held a safe space for the members and friends of UUCOD to grow and expand their connection to what has value to their inner life, to each other in friendship and fellowship, and to that spirit of life beyond words to describe, but which we sense. As a result, there is this flexibility and freedom that invites people to bring their ideas forward, to engage each other, to share and explore. Much has been done to renew and rebuild this sacred community, spiritually and concretely! She is deeply appreciative of all the ministry you have provided to folks here.

To Do:

- Further explore possible youth programming for 2019-20.
- Build a group to coordinate/promote adult RE programming.
- Send out sign up for Caring Tasks: casseroles / rides/ cards

Social Justice: Share The Plate. Reverend Barbara asked for and the Board approved extending the Share The Plate through the summer (June-August, months which we typically do not do Share The Plate) with the proceeds going to the Galilee Center.

Food on the First: Rev Carolyn would like to have food on the first for the Animal Shelter in Brawley. She will be doing a sermon Aug. 4th about animals/dogs. The Board agreed.

Break-in: During the Monday night Meditation there was a car break-in for a visible wallet and phone. We will send an email to renters encouraging them to not leave valuables in the cars and add a short mention in the newsletter that we had a break-in and encouraging people to not leave valuables visible in their cars.

Palm Springs Pride 2019: Rabbi Jules asked us to join a inter-faith contingent to display the flags of the 72 nations in which being gay is still a crime, even punishable by death. He wants to assemble 100 people to carry the flags and asked us to provide flag bearers (the cost of the flags is already covered). The Board supported the idea, but Sarah suggested that we should only commit to a couple of flag bearers since we also have the UUCOD banner and contingent.

Worship: Two recent sermons: *What Matters to White Men, and Sabbath Keeping*. Reverend Barbara is next in the pulpit on July 7th and then not again until Aug. 25.

Self-Care: Vacation / Study Time: June 25-30 & July 8- August 19: 7 of 8 weeks due each year.

Preaching Schedule: Reverend Barbara provided a draft preaching schedule for her contracted 25 sessions for 2019-20

6. Old Business:

a. Facilities Update and Approval of Recommendations for Improvements (combined oral and written report)

Short Summary: We've had an amazing year. We can now say that nearly all of the important and urgent deferred maintenance, safety and appearance issues are resolved (110 tasks since Nov'18). Basically, we have cleared most of five years of deferred maintenance. Currently, we are adding fire monitoring to our Command One system. While we still have a large backlog, nothing is urgent.

The floor covering took a step backward (the price for Marmoleum skyrocketed), so we are now pursuing commercial LVT vinyl tile and the cost will move to next fiscal year.

Now we are (mostly) taking the summer off, with a plan for coverage of any urgent issues that arise.

Fire monitoring: Jerry strung the conduit (saving us \$300) and is working with CommandOne to wire the sensor in our fire riser flow valve to the CommandOne wiring panel, as well as install a smoke detector in the kitchen. *Addition: completed June 20!* With no change in the monthly monitoring service fee, we will now have fire monitoring. Our fire systems will meet and exceed fire code requirements.

Andrea is working with the fire department to ensure that a current master key is inside the Fire Knox box on the building exterior.

Foyer Flooring: Both bids for Marmoleum flooring were way above the cost that the flooring companies had expected (apparently due to materials price increases) and were not viable bids. The ad-hoc committee (Frank, Marion, Michael, Rod) discussed options. The two options were polished concrete (\$12/sqft, contemporary aesthetic, green, hard) and commercial vinyl plank (\$8/sqft, many patterns, semi-green options available, soft). We are proceeding with vinyl plank (voting three to one). Marion and Michael are beginning the search for attractive commercial-grade eco-rated planks. Vinyl is not as green as Marmoleum, but we will seek a vinyl plank with eco-friendly adhesives, recycled content, and green certifications such as FloorScore and NSF 332.

Rod requested and the Board approved changing from Marmoleum to Vinyl Plank flooring (alternative: Polished Concrete, increasing foyer and hall cost from \$6k to \$10k)

Minister's Office: Jerry, Marion and Michael did a fantastic job of remodeling the minister's office, from paint to new furniture. She should hold an Open House!

Other notable repairs: One exterior handrail was wrapped in rope and the others have the prior covers re-installed, the squeaky sanctuary door closer mechanisms were replaced, the plumbing leak in the men's restroom was repaired, seven irrigation emitters were repaired, the sanctuary chair horseshoe arrangement has been finalized to allow easy traffic flow and safety egress. For more tasks completed, and for the backlog, see <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ea4N2KuIOJC15ginnVc9eec8tK5LMIBNOMCLvvNUI9s/edit?usp=sharing>

Grounds: Mel has agreed to oversee the gardener (and has joined as another handyperson). That will be great both to ensure that irrigation is working efficiently and to improve the overall appearance of the grounds. Thanks Mel! We have now removed the invasive species from the grounds, and planted desert milkweed seedlings.

Summer coverage: Other than the flooring, no work from the Facilities backlog is planned for the summer. Rod will be gone June 20 through early October. Jerry and Jane will coordinate to provide coverage for an urgent need. Rod sent them each a current list of Facilities Contacts (utilities, contract vendors, and repairs and maintenance) as well as general calendar availability of several member handypersons.

Parking Lot: We will seal the parking lot in October or November (that is better for crack sealing than the summer). Our bids from 18 months ago were \$9,900. Since Rod will be away until early October and will want to move quickly upon returning, the Board today approved a not-to-exceed \$11,000 for parking lot re-seal. Rod commented that the Church Mutual safety inspection list suggests that we remove all of the concrete parking lot bumpers, but that he liked having them to

keep cars out of the sand. The Board suggested that we remove the primary trip hazards: the concrete parking lot bumpers from the disabled parking area in front of the building, and those near the labyrinth sitting tables.

b. Approve Revision to the Animal Policy

The Board approved the revised Animal Policy.

c. Approve Summer Share The Plate: Galilee Center

The Board approved this during the Minister Report.

7. New Business:

a. Accept Resignation of Nancy Boyce, Board Member at Large

Sarah will work on the nominating committee to suggest a replacement. She has several potential people in mind.

c. Set Fundraising Calendar for 2019-2020

- Garage Sale, October 5 from 9AM to 2PM. At 2PM Angel View picks up everything remaining. Since some donated items were already pledged specifically for the Minister's Discretionary Fund, the proceeds will be split 50% each to the General Fund and the Minister's Discretionary Fund.
- Service Auction, Nov 9 at 5PM, goal \$22,000
- Cabaret, Feb 15 at 6:30 PM, not necessarily a fund raiser

c. Set Calendar for 2019-2020 Pledge Drive and Annual Meeting

- Pledge Drive kickoff, Feb 2. Pledge Drive Close, March 8
- Volunteer Recognition, April 19 or 26 (opposite of District UU gathering)
- Annual Meeting, May 3, coinciding with Music Sunday

d. Brief Report on Endowment/Philanthropy Subcommittee

Rob duWors has joined the Endowment Committee, as will Sarah. In the Fall, Sarah Clapp, a consultant, will train the committee (and Board, Finance and Stewardship) on Philanthropy. This will then lead to approaching and education members.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rod Belshee, Secretary

Approved: 7.16.2019