

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert
Board of Directors Regular Meeting, April 29, 2020
Minutes

Attending:

Attending by Zoom Meeting: President Jane Zaun, 1st Vice President Vikki Porter, 2nd Vice President Barbara Storms, Treasurer Jerry L'Hommedieu, Secretary Rod Belshee, Director at Large Carol Lavoie, Director at Large Larry Rogers, Reverend Barbara Fast.

Absent: <none>

Congregational Members by Zoom Meeting: Mel Wilkinson, Linda Savard, Rob DuWors, Sarah Gonzales, Fran Hoag, Denise Janssen Eager, Chris Eager.

1. Opening and Chalice Lighting: Jane called the meeting to order at 9:30am by Zoom Meeting, and led with a reading and candle lighting.

2. Check-in:

3. Voices of the Congregation:

Music Program, Mel Wilkinson.

Mel expressed concern about cutting the music budget request. She emphasized the roots and importance of Music.

Music Program, Sarah Gonzales.

Sarah expressed concern about the increasing cost of the music program for several consecutive years. She also expressed faith that the Board will do what is best for the congregation.

4. Budget Discussion:

Jerry explained that the Finance Committee and Board had worked for about 90 days to develop a solid budget proposal by March. By the end of March it was clear that the Covid-19 pandemic necessitated changes. The revised budget still has a few outstanding issues and assumptions before submitting to the congregation for approval.

Assumptions

1. Covid-19 precludes normalcy until at least October. We have lost our rental income, and plate collections are down 25%.
2. We run a surplus most years; we have under-spent in the last three years. We are running a \$20,000 surplus for this year at this point.
3. We have \$220,000 in reserves, which is approximately an entire year of expenses. We are not at risk of insolvency. (About one quarter is unrestricted funds, the other portion would require permissions to be reallocated.)
4. The proposed 2020-2021 budget does *not* tap reserves. It includes a reduction in both revenue and expenses compared to the current year.
5. The Finance Committee and the Board will monitor our financial situation monthly and adjust as needed.

Specific Discussions

Jerry led a discussion of the “yellow highlighted” areas of the budget.

1. WW Rental Income. The future of WW rental income is uncertain. The local WW team wants to return to the building when able, but the National WW organization is conducting a review and may go to store fronts instead. We assumed nine months of rent in the budget.
2. Carol recommended that we reduce the Auction target from \$18K to \$12K.
3. Scrip /eScrip will decline since Stater Bros is our biggest contributor and they lack an eScrip program.
4. Streaming services will increase the cost of internet (needs to be faster and more reliable).
5. Music program. Extensive discussion covered the history of paying below-market rates, comparison to UUA fair compensation guidelines, and detailed discussion of the cost of guest musicians and the choir.

Jerry updated the proposed 2020-2021 budget to reflect the agreements reached during the discussions.

The Board approved a motion to approve the proposed 2020-2021 budget for presentation to the Congregation.

5. Zoom Contract:

The UUA has a national contract with Zoom. We merged our prior subscription under the UUA agreement. Carol will continue to manage the calendar. The new agreement allows 10 simultaneous hosts. *<note added later: it turned out that only one host is still allowed.>*

6. Annual Meeting, May 17:

- We need at least 36 attendees to the meeting to establish a quorum.
 - UUA suggests that we use Zoom and poll the members one at a time to test if they can hear.
 - Rod and Barbara will count. Barbara has a current member list for verification.
- Jane will start with a preface statement of the process for the meeting
- Fran offered to host and watch the chat, and mute/un-mute attendees.
- Rod will be the moderator to direct question.
- 17 paper absentee ballots were mailed on Monday. Jerry will pick up returned ballots at the PO Box on Saturday morning, and then email e-ballots to everyone else.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rod Belshee

May 19, 2020
Date Approved