

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert
Board of Directors Regular Meeting, July 20, 2021
Minutes

Attending:

BOD Attending by Zoom Meeting: President Linda Savard , 1st Vice President Hiroshi Yamaguchi, 2nd Vice President Linda Moretti, Treasurer Fred Bloss, Director-at-Large Bob Rancourt, Director-at-Large Mack Rogers, Minister Reverend Ian Riddell.

BOD Absent: Secretary Rod Belshee

Congregational Members by Zoom Meeting:

Barbara Storms,

Board Business between meetings:

1. Covid Protocols clarification:

The Board approved on June 25 by email vote a clarification to the Indoor Phase 1 Protocols, adopted June 15 2021.

Any group using the building must restrict attendees to (fully vaccinated) members of a known group, not be open to the general public. This in particular affects the Monday Mediation group, S2S2S and Desert Outreach Synagogue.

Meeting minutes:

1. Opening and Chalice Lighting:

Linda called the regular Board Meeting to order at 5:00 pm PST by Zoom Meeting and lit the chalice.

2. Welcome and Check-in:

Linda offered welcoming remarks and led a check of Board Members.

3. Approval of Board Minutes:

The Board approved a motion to accept the minutes as written for the June 15, 2021 regular meeting of the Board.

4. Process Monitor and Timekeeper: Hiroshi Yamaguchi

5. Voices of the Congregation:

no items were raised.

6. Board Covenant:

Linda led an important review of the Board Covenant as the new Board forms.

7. Reports:

a. President Linda Savard:

Linda submitted a written report. In the meeting she

b. 1st Vice President Hiroshi Yamaguchi:

Hiroshi submitted a written report. In the meeting, he

c. 2nd Vice President Linda Moretti:

Linda submitted a written report. In the meeting she

d. Treasurer Fred Bloss:

Jerry L'Hommedieu (FY 2020-21 Treasurer) submitted a written report regarding our fiscal year end financial position and notable financial events.

In the meeting Fred

e. Director-at-Large Bob Rancourt:

Bob submitted a written report. In the meeting he

f. Director-at-Large Mack Rogers:

Mack submitted a written report. In the meeting he

g. Minister Reverend Ian Riddell:

Reverend Ian submitted a written report. In the meeting he

8. Old Business:

a. Attitude of Gratitude, Mack

Cards for Gratitude were sent from the entire Board:

- <name> for <short description>
-
-

b. Board Liaisons to Committees, Linda

Linda discussed the role of Board liaisons to Committees, and members adopted the following assignments.

| President | Personnel | DIBM | COM | Nominating |
|--------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| 1 st Vice President | Church Council | Denominational Affairs | Reopening/Covid Protocols | |
| 2 nd Vice President | Stewardship | Membership | Communication | |
| Secretary | Facilities | AV/Production | | |
| Treasurer | Finance | | | |
| Member at Large – Mack | Social Justice | History and Archives | Hospitality | |
| Member at Large – Bob | Worship | Music | | |
| Minister | Care | Lifespan Spiritual Growth | Chalice Circles | |

9. New Business

a. Approval of Reverend Ian’s Housing Allowance, Linda

b. Celebration Garden and Garden of Hope Proposal, Hiroshi

Hiroshi presented a proposal from the Sacred Grounds Initiative. The scope included sidewalks and paths for the Celebration Garden and Garden of Hope, as well as extending the plaza to the full shaded area. He included drawings and bids.

Discussion included

c. New Website Proposal, Barbara Storms

Barbara presented ideas for a new website and asked for initial funding approval.

Discussion included

d. Covid Protocols for Worship, Hiroshi

Hiroshi proposed extending the Indoor Phase 1 Protocols to worship services without change. He further proposed terminating the Outdoor Protocols.

Discussion included

e. Approval for Beloved Conversations, Among, Linda

Linda briefly reviewed the Beloved Conversations, in particular year two in which participants begin the collective work within the congregations. She highlighted the importance and commitment UUCOD has to this work, the resources made available to congregations that enroll, and asked for approval of funding.

Discussion included

f. Church Indoor Decor task force, Linda

g. Gene Kain Outdoor Art Gift, Hiroshi

h. Possible Technology Class for the Board, Linda

10. Extinguish Chalice and Adjournment of Regular Board Meeting

Reverend Ian gave a reading as Linda extinguished the Chalice and adjourned the regular Board meeting at pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Rancourt

September 21, 2021
Date Approved

Addendum to Board of Directors Meeting
Written Reports of Board Members and Committee Chairs

Attachments

Written Reports of Board Members and Minister

- a) President Linda Savard's written report
- b) 1st Vice President Hiroshi Yamaguchi's written report
- c) 2nd Vice President Linda Morreti's written report
- d) FY 20-21 Treasurer Jerry L'Hommedieu's year end written report
- e) Director at Large Bob Rancourt's written report
- f) Director at Large Mack Roger's written report
- g) Minister Reverend Ian W. Riddell's written report

Written reports of Committee Chairs

- a) Facilities Committees

a. President Linda Savard's written report:

b. 1st Vice President Hiroshi Yamaguchi's written report:

Co-facilitate the Desert Meditation gatherings that have resumed meeting in our sanctuary on Mondays and online on Thursdays.

Helped to develop our indoor COVID protocols that will include Sunday worship services that will also apply to allied groups gathering in our building.

Helped with arrangements for the Rev. B/Jonathan farewell celebration.

Assisted with developing a Sacred Grounds Proposal for the "Celebration Garden" and "Garden of Hope."

Participated in the Beloved Conversations BloPOC Curriculum and pod group discussions and met with others to discuss participation in "Among."

Participated in "DRUUM Circle" meetings at the UUA GA including the API Caucus

Met with President Linda and Rev. Ian to discuss '21-'23 Strategic Goals.

In communication with Gene Kain on the possible donation of two additional metal sculptures with a desert theme that are based on the Saguaro Cactus.

Facilitated the BloPOC group meeting.

Participated in the following committee/group meetings:

Facilities

Stewardship

DIBM

Common Read - "Breathe"

Men's Breakfast

c. 2nd Vice President Linda Moretti's written report:

d. FY20-21 Treasurer Jerry L'Hommedieu's fiscal year end written report:

As of June 30, the church held cash assets of \$249,326.08 in its bank accounts. Reserve and restricted funds totaled \$245,534.89, leaving a balance of \$3,791.199 in unrestricted funds. This is in line with board approved year-end adjustments made in May to allocate excess revenues to restricted accounts such as 2310 Building Maintenance Contingency Fund and \$8,000 to offset the FY 21-22 budget deficit.

Donations of \$40,100 were raised in June for paying down the mortgage. \$25,237 was transferred from the 2101 Audio Visual Funds account to 4900 Miscellaneous Operational Revenue to offset purchases of equipment. These funds were transferred to allow UUCOD to recognize the revenue originally posted to reserve accounts. June's Share the Plate efforts raised \$243 for the Palm Springs Animal Shelter.

Total revenues and net profit for both June and the fiscal year are misleading. Revenues include \$40,100 received for the mortgage reduction but this is offset by the same amount for the payment to UUA to pay down the mortgage. That transaction reduces our long-term liabilities on the Statement of Financial Position but is not reflected as an expense on the Statement of Activity. For the month we actually paid out \$90,938, resulting in a loss for the month of \$16,889 and total net revenue for the year of \$43,219.

Pledge payments received for the fiscal year were \$164,000 versus a target of \$170,000. UUCOD will start the next fiscal year with pledge revenues of \$29,414 that were collected in the current fiscal year.

Exceptional expenses for June included audio visual equipment purchases of \$23,237 to the 5042 Capital Repairs account, earthquake insurance expense of \$5,272, and the \$40,100 expense noted above to pay down the mortgage. The mortgage balance as of June 30 was \$75,281. We also incurred additional minister's salary expense due to moving Rev Barbara's pay date forward to her last day of employment and payment of accrued vacation time.

For the year, the value of the MacLean Endowment Fund increased from \$74,979 to \$96,939; a \$21,960 increase in value (29%).

e. Director at Large Bob Rancourt's written report:

f. Director at Large Mack Roger's written report:

none submitted this month

g. Minister Reverend Ian Riddell's written report:

Written Reports of Committee Chairs:

a. Facilities Committee Chair Rod Belshee's written report:

Handyperson Tasks

- After the AV project is complete we might skip Monday work parties for the summer.
- The sanctuary thermostat has failed. Replacement was completed July 14.

AV Project

- Over 90% of the building cabling has been pulled, which will total about a half mile of cable!
 - The cable is as future-proof as we could make it. It will handle both current audio and video cabling (XLR and SDI) and future audio and video over Internet, and all at 4K.
- The big screens are installed
 - They are connected to the network and can be used now for movies or videos directly from YouTube, Amazon Prime or whatever, or can be connected to a laptop with HDMI.
 - The screens are not yet ready for worship services.
- The AV rack is in place
 - The rack-mounted Internet and audio systems are complete, the video system install has started.
- Internet
 - Our high-speed internet now has a separate (and hidden) AV network.
- Audio closet
 - The closet was gutted, painted and a new work surface installed. Kevin is building shelving.
 - The new digital audio board is working with our sanctuary speakers. It's first use was ICD's welcome on July 10.
 - The video monitors are wall mounted, and configuration of the two laptops has started
- Most gear has arrived
 - Graphics cards are now starting to come back into good supply so we can buy one this Fall when prices drop.
 - We vacillated on cameras a couple of times: the cameras we really wanted were \$10K each, so we opted for lower quality. Canon just announced a new camera that is exactly what we were looking for, but at \$5k so we returned the initial purchase and pre-ordered the new ones (due in August). (We can still do the Sep 12 service with the camcorder even if the Canon products are delayed.)
- Project budget
 - We overachieved on donations, and expenses were under budget. With the upgraded cameras we will still leave approximately \$4,400 in the AV reserve fund.

Production

- Summer Production
 - During the summer most of the worship leaders and all of the music will be remote, so services will be the same as for the past year – recorded pieces assembled with OBS and then played on Sunday.
- Hybrid Production
 - September 12 is the target for the first hybrid service, with simultaneous in-person and live (Zoom) service.

- Initial services will be simplified to allow training of volunteers on the new gear. New capabilities will be added slowly, and systems will be tuned to increase quality.

Sacred Grounds

- A commemorative bench was placed for Reverend Barbara with a temporary plaque. The permanent plaque arrival date remains unknown – installation is probably in the Fall
- A separate agenda item for the Board meeting provides a detailed proposal for the Celebration Garden, Garden of Hope, and patio plaza extension.

Covid Protocols and Worship Service

- A separate agenda item for the Board proposes to extend the Indoor Phase 1 protocols to include worship services for Friends and Members, but not the general public.
- Covid new case rates remain low but have ticked upward a bit. Vaccination rates of 12+ in the Coachella Valley are at herd immunity levels.
- The Delta variant is concerning, particularly among the unvaccinated and youth. Opening the building to unvaccinated or to the general public should wait until we see what happens when flu season starts.

Office Tech

- Pam is very adept at technology. We are very lucky!
- Fred figured out the phones with Spectrum, identified the needs with Reverend Ian, and is working on getting it set up right.
- We are moving forward on using Google Drive, initially for the Treasurer and then the Secretary.
 - The initial roll-out of Google Drive was unsuccessful so we need to develop a cheat-sheet and try again. The main issue was Google Docs.
- Fred is updating the church email addresses.

UUCOD.org website

- A separate agenda item for the Board reports on the initial ideas to replace the uucod.org website.
 - From a technical viewpoint, this will reach our goal of uucod owning the domain name, hosting the website by a reliable and secure provider, and implementing the website in a manner that can be maintained by multiple people. It also can avoid the troublesome erroneous copyright flagging issues of Facebook and YouTube.

Facilities Committee

- Summer vacation schedules
 - On call: Steve, Mel, Rod
 - Rod will be unavailable July 15 through August 15.
 - Mel gone Aug 11-Sep 4
 - Steve is gone first week of August, and September 7-18
- Committee Meeting schedules
 - There is no August Facilities Committee meeting
 - The September meeting will be delayed from the usual Sep 1 to Sep 22
- Chairperson
 - This is Rod's last meeting as Facilities Chair

- Sue will prepare an agenda and run the September 22 meeting. After that is still TBD.