

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert
Special Board Meeting Minutes – Budget Preview
April 6, 2021

Attending:

BOD Attending by Zoom Meeting: President Jane Zaun, 1st Vice President Carol Lavoie, 2nd Vice President Linda Savard, Treasurer Jerry L’Hommedieu, Secretary Rod Belshee, and Director-at-Large Mack Rogers, Director-at-Large Bob Rancourt, and Minister Reverend Barbara Fast.

BOD Absent: *none*

Congregants: Jane Betts Stover, Barb Ketay, Bill Smith, Carolyn Etheridge, Chris Eager, Hiroshi Yamaguchi, Mel Wilkinson, Randy Steele, Sarita Gonzales, Barbara Storms, Rob DuWors, Fred Bloss, Margaret Manson, Sandy Sladen, Walter Gendell. And Carol McDaniel.

Meeting minutes:

1. Opening and Chalice Lighting:

President Jane introduced the topic for the night and thanked Congregants for attending.

2. Review of the Proposed FY21-22 Budget.

Jerry led a review of the proposed FY21-22 Budget. He started with the overall goals including keeping the congregation together (especially with worship services), increasing the Administrator skills and hours, and reaching 100% full-time-equivalent minister. Jerry discussed the fall off of revenue from renters since the building is closed, as well as reviewed the excess revenue for each of the past five years.

Jerry then walked through the budget line by line.

3. Congregational Opportunity: Questions/Comments.

Discussion included

- The possibility of retiring the \$150K mortgage in part or entirely by applying the \$100K gift held in reserve and potentially a capital campaign drive to reduce the remainder.
- The Pledge drive totaled \$174K, which is very good considering the pandemic. The Finance Committee strongly encouraged budgeting for a 100% full time minister, and professional Administrator. The projected expenses exceed revenues.
- Finance has researched means to better invest our \$100K Gift Reserve, and recommends that the best investment is to pay down the mortgage, currently at 5.9%. Finance may also propose to fully retire the mortgage, through a capital campaign for donations or member-financed low interest mortgage. Jerry

commented that a proposal for a capital campaign would need to be brought to the Board and then referred to the congregation.

- Comments included recognition that expenses are well prioritized, mentioning the 100% full time minister and improved Administrator help.
- Several people asked for clarification on several items. Questions regarding Children’s Religious Education and child care led to a discussion a lack of volunteers to coordinate rather than budget.
- An offer to donate a laptop computer for the Administrator could eliminate one \$2,000 budget item.

4. Extinguish Chalice and Adjournment

Jane adjourned the meeting with a reading at 7:09 PST.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rod Belshee

_____, 2020
Date Approved