

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF THE DESERT
MINUTES OF CONGREGATIONAL 2022-2023 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

MAY 15, 2022

Linda began the hybrid meeting at 11:36 AM in the UUCOD Sanctuary with additional members online using Zoom.

Preliminaries, Linda

Linda explained the voting procedure, explained the method for asking questions in person and over zoom, and recapped that all reports have been distributed and additional copies can be distributed if requested.

Chalice Lighting, Rev Ian

Rev Ian lit the Chalice with a reading about ministry and community.

Quorum

Barb Storms confirmed a quorum (at least 36) is present with 40 members present in the room and 16 attending by Zoom. There were no objections raised to starting the official meeting.

Waiver to By-Laws

Due to Covid, a number of new members were unable to sign the membership book until recently. Our By-Laws state the voters must have been members for at least 60 days. Sarita moved that we waive that By-Law to allow people who become members by April 2022 to be able to vote. This was seconded and passed.

President Report, Linda Savard

Linda gave the President's report. Despite a second difficult pandemic year, we have remained healthy and vibrant with stable membership. We have new staff, are financial sound, and are enhancing our building and grounds.

Linda highlighted the critical need for a Treasurer – California requires a 501c3 to have a President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Without a Treasurer we could lose non-profit status, costing many thousands of dollars. To make the Treasurer role less onerous, we restructured the position to remove most of the tasks, including day-to-day bookkeeping to our Admin, plus some things to the Secretary, and some to the Finance Committee. The hours for the Treasurer role is now just a third of what it was previously. Jerry is finishing current position. Linda explained the new concept of an Assistant Treasurer in a learning role for one year, then assuming the Treasurer position the next year so that we always have a trained person ready to go and to further share the load. Linda asked people to consider stepping into the Assistant Treasurer role. Question: time requirement? A: 20-25 hours/month.

Minister's Report, Rev Ian

Rev Ian referred to his written report. He emphasized that we are truly a sanctuary for diversity, social justice and spiritual growth, and that it takes a shared ministry to make that a reality.

He highlighted special thanks to the Covid response team, new staff (Pam and Vanessa) and the Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Ministry (DIBM).

He encouraged more volunteers and emphasized the need for new leadership.

He mentioned a goal for next year – need to increase communication across groups, and mutual support.

He gave thanks to the amazing financial support which paid off the mortgage and exceeded the pledge drive during the second year of a pandemic (!).

Facilities Report, Mel Wilkinson

Special thanks Steve Kerr, Mel Wilkinson, Sue Caspari, Carol McDaniel, and Hiroshi Yamaguchi.

While the Facilities Committee has been in flux with no committee chair, the team has been making do and doing a good job. The landscaping contract has been upgraded and Palo Verde tree recovery started. Inside the building, there is a new community art display in the community room, and a Cultural Corner in the foyer. The building now reflects who we are. AV provided a great course and trained a number of volunteers. The building's use has returned as we resumed services, we are hosting Desert Outreach Synagogue and the Insight Community of the Desert, plus 12-step programs are coming in soon.

The committee needs more volunteers.

Finance, Sarita Gonzales

<revised report sent out yesterday>

Sarita thanked committee members Chris Eager, Bill Masco, Roger Beaman, Ingrid Pratt, Ginger Hemingway and Steve Toporoff, and is recruiting a new chair (3 hours/month).

The committee provides three main roles: financial oversight, financial planning, and fundraising.

Accomplishments include establishing a facilities capital reserve, a capital campaign where 40 people contributed \$95K to pay off our mortgage, and a pledge drive of \$177K against a goal of \$175K.

Membership, Randy Steele

Randy is retiring as chairperson, with LeGrand stepping in. Members are Margaret Beaman, Barb Storms, Mel Wilkinson, LeGrand Velez, and Tracy Flynn. Fifteen new members joined in 2021-2022 (7 Fall, 8 Spring), and the congregation remains consistently about 140 members. Committee focus is to attract new members, maintain the directory, and provide Sunday personnel (greeters, lending library, ushers, check-in table).

Social Justice, Denise Janssen Eager

Denise gave a shout out to members, Sue Caspari for years as the notetaker, Rob Duwors as the Board liaison, Fran Hoag as the go to person for questions, Gloria Kapp as effectively 2nd in command, Barb Ketay for years of service, Carol McDaniel who delivers food to Galilee, and Mack R who has rejoined. Also thanks to people who have helped with all of the programs (Sarita and Barb, Bob Rancourt, LeGrand Velez, ...).

Share the Plate (STP) voting just ended and will be announced. So far this year we collected over 700 food items and clothing for the Galilee Center, and 600 socks and toiletries for the Well in the Desert. In addition to establishing ties and relationships, STP has donated \$5K in the first ten months of this fiscal year.

Finance Report, Operating Budget, Jerry

Jerry reviewed the process to develop a budget proposal, and presented several slides.

Identify priorities

- upgrade grounds
- upgrade professional administrator staffing with increased admin hours, responsibilities and grade
- budget for Religious Education Coordinator, Choir Director, additional 20% ministry, and potential AV support
- improved technology with website and AV
- leadership Training, right relationship implementation

Expenses

- initial ask was \$345K, pared to \$303K. Up from \$258K last year.
- building and staffing make up 80%

Revenues

- pledges are 58%, plus auction 8%.
- \$57K other is unexpected money e.g. \$23K contributions in Sacred Grounds reserve

Key increases

- \$23K expense using reserve carryover for Sacred Grounds
- Less \$22.8K mortgage
- Improve gardening, more supplies and utilities as we reoccupy building
- \$12K first year of 100% ministry
- Staff \$19K administrator, Religious Education Coordinator, potential for AV production
- Committees up a bit since reactivated

There were no questions.

8th Principle Task Force, Walter Gendell

Walter gave a brief history of work from this past year to provide information, get feedback, answer questions, and lead to the presentation of 8th principle for adoption.

Background: The Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging Ministry first discussed the 8th Principle in early 2021 and established a team in early 2022 with Hiroshi, Sandy, Sue, Denise, and Walter.

The 8th Principle Team has conducted extensive communication: a January Sunday service with 30 people staying for a follow up discussion, monthly newsletter articles since January, a March second zoom meeting with 27 people plus members of the Long Beach congregation, starting in March an 8th principle table on the patio for discussions, April small group discussions, calls to people not attending services, and an online survey to full congregation. Every effort was made to get feedback, answer questions, address concerns, and assess the sense of the congregation.

The wording of the Resolution may change at the UUA general assembly. 160 congregations have already adopted the principle.

Walter emphasized that adopting the 8th Principle is the first step not the end, and begins our journey to diversity, inclusion and beginning.

Nominating Committee, Jane

Currently the Committee is Carol LaVoie, Susan Hannon and Jane Zaun. Jane Betts-Stover has been nominated by the Board to replace Susan Hannon. The Committee is transitioning from a Nominating Committee to a Leadership Development Committee.

Board Nominees

- 2nd VP, Fran Hoag
- Secretary, Bob Rancourt
- Treasurer, Jerry L'Hommedieu
- At Large, Carol McDaniel
- At Large, David Carter

Voting, Linda

Electronic Ballots have been sent out to all members in good standing.

Share the Plate recipients for 2022-2023 were announced as follows:

SafeHouse of the Desert
Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest
Tolerance Education Center
Safe Schools Desert Cities Scholarship Program
Alianza Coachella Valley
S.C.R.A.P. Gallery
UCR Palm Desert Partners
Palm Springs Animal Shelter
Riverside County Bar Foundation

Closing Words, Rev Ian

Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted by Rod Belshee, Secretary

Approved by the Board on May 17, 2023