

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF THE DESERT
Church Council Minutes
January 21, 2023

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Attending on Zoom: President Linda Savard; 1st Vice President Bill Masco; 2nd Vice President Fran Hoag; Treasurer Jerry L’Hommedieu; Secretary Bob Rancourt; Director-at-Large Dave Carter; Director-at-Large Carol McDaniel

Board Members Absent: None

Minister Attending on Zoom: Rev. Ian W. Riddell

Committee Representatives Attending on Zoom: Rod Belshee (AV Team); Fran Hoag (Lifespan Spiritual Growth Team and Stewardship Committee); Walter Gendell (Committee on Ministry and Nominating/Leadership Development Committee); Denise Janssen Eager (Social Justice Committee); Linda Savard (Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging Ministry); Mel Wilkinson (Facilities Committee); Jane Zaun (Committee on Ministry, Denominational Affairs Liaison, and Nominating/Leadership Development Committee); Rev. Ian W. Riddell (Care Team and Worship Committee)

Committee Representatives Absent: Bryna Blum (Worship Committee); Legrand Vélez (Membership Committee)

MINUTES

1. Opening and Chalice Lighting: Linda called the Church Council to order at 9:05 a.m. PST, and Rev. Riddell lit the chalice and gave an inspirational reading.
2. Check-Ins: Bill led a check-in of everyone.
3. Pledging and 2023–2024 Budget: Jerry explained the kick-off and plans for the upcoming pledge drive. Jerry anticipated questions concerning why the pledge drive goal has increased, and he explained diminished income and increased expenses from last year’s budget. He also encouraged today’s participants to complete their pledges by next week so that church leadership pledges’ can be announced with introduction of the pledge drive. Jerry gave an overview of the status of planning and finalizing next year’s budget.
4. Spiritual Leadership: For the Nominating/Leadership Development Committee, Jane and Walter advised of their work on proposing planned spiritual leadership education for the next year. They summarized their participation in the suggested training course “Claiming Our Spiritual Leadership,” and highlighted the course’s main concepts.
5. UUA Article II Revisions: Rev. Riddell went over proposed revisions to Article II of the UUA bylaws concerning covenanted principles and purposes, which were last

substantially revised in 1985. Specifically, he went over the UUA’s Article II Study Report 2021–2023 prepared by the UUA’s Article II Study Commission which the UUA launched in 2020. Participants listened to Rev. Riddell’s summary and agreed to consider the proposals.

6. Committee Sharing Needs and Plans: The following individuals summarized the concerns, plans, and needs for their represented constituencies:

- Denise Janssen Eager Social Justice Committee
- Rod Belshee AV Team
- Mel Wilkinson Facilities Committee
- Rev. Riddell Worship Committee
- Rev. Riddell Care Team
- Fran Hoag Stewardship Committee
- Linda Savard Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging Ministry
- Jane Zaun Denominational Affairs Liaison and Nominating/Leadership Development Committee

7. Extinguishing Chalice and Adjournment: Since the discussions moved slower than scheduled and several individuals who had planned to attend were absent, participants agreed to table the remaining agenda item of “Suggestions for New Strategic Goals” to another meeting. Linda adjourned the meeting at 11:36 a.m. PST, and Rev. Riddell offered inspirational thoughts and extinguished the chalice.

Respectfully Submitted:



Robert L. “Bob” Rancourt, Jr.
Secretary

January 21, 2023

Date