
Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2024

Attending:

A meeting of the UUCOD Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, July 16, 2024.

Board Members attending in person: Bob Rancourt, President, Julia Alberg-Burbank, 1st Vice President, Jerry L'Hommedieu, Treasurer

Board Member Attending by Zoom: Frank Riela, 2nd Vice President, Claudia Simmons, Secretary, John Ressler, Director at Large, Rev. Ian Ridell, Minister

Board Members Not Present: Walter Gendell, Director at Large

Others Present by Zoom: Linda Savard, Jane Zaun, Sheila Goldner

Welcome and Call to Order

Bob Rancourt called the regular Board Meeting to order at 5:00 PST.

Chalice Lighting

Rev. Riddell offered inspirational sentiments and lit the chalice.

Check-In

Bob Rancourt welcomed everyone, and he and the Board checked in.

Process Moderation

Process monitor was assigned to Julia Alberg-Burbank.

Consent Agenda

- The Board made a motion to approve the June 18, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes. Minutes passed by acclamation.

Voices of the Congregation

- Review and Discussions of UUCOD Delegation to UUA General Assembly
 - Attendees debriefed at a luncheon.
 - Rev. Ian intends to bring the perspectives of the delegation to the church. There were other resolutions, along with Article II, that were passed, and he wants the congregation to be involved in discussions around these issues.

Old Business

- Review and Consideration of Board and Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Short Range Goals
 - Regarding DIBM, Rev. Ian reported that we started work on that and were distracted into other priorities. Plan is to go back to this and continue to work.
 - Rev. Ian suggested that we do more work in communicating what we are doing re short term goals.
 - Employee policy changes have been in progress. UUCOD is now fully compliant with AB 506.
 - A Communications team has been created with team members Pam Bibo, Vikki Porter, Diane Carmony and Frank Riela.
 - Board is still looking for a Volunteer Coordinator.
 - Rev. Ian has reported that the creation of new Vision and Value statements has been stalled and it needs to continue as a goal for the coming year. The re-evaluation of Vision and Values updates has started with the Board and Council, and it now needs to be brought to the congregation as well.
 - Safety Committee. Reviewed accomplishments
 - Creating a Planned Giving long-term income opportunity received a positive response and is an ongoing project that will continue to be pursued in the coming year. Some congregants have requested that the team follow up with them.
 - Regarding the Green Sanctuary, there is a new and improved 2.0 program. Bob Rancourt has information on this. It is currently unclear whether UUCOD will proceed with a recertification. The church's day-to-day practices are considered to be more ecological in nature.
 - The next Board meeting will most likely take place at the Board Retreat, where we aim to finalize our goals. Bob Rancourt proposed that we start thinking about our projected goals in advance, so that we can discuss them during the meeting.

- Review, Consideration, and Discussion of Meetings Schedule and Proposed 2024-2025 Board and Fiscal Year Calendar
 - The Board sets the meeting schedule for the year. Question proposed as to whether the Board wants to change date that Board Meetings are held. It was voted to keep the status quo of the third Tuesday of the month and to keep it a hybrid meeting.
 - The Board voted to skip the August Board meeting.
 - Next Board meeting will be Tuesday, September 17, 2024.
 - Calendars can be found on the shared drive.
 - The following updates have been made to the FY 2024-2025 calendar:
 - The Board Retreat date has been changed to Sunday, September 22, 2024, after Sunday's Service. The Retreat will begin at 11:30.
 - A memorial service for Rev. Kenneth Torquil MacLean will be held by UUR,aPA at 2:00 EDT on Saturday, September 21, 2024. The Service will be broadcast and a gathering for this service will be held at UUCOD on that day beginning at 11:00 PDT. Details forthcoming.
 - October 13, 2024, will be a 65th birthday party for the UUCOD congregation.
 - Stewardship would like to do a "Bingo Night" on Saturday February 1st in lieu of the chili cook off.
 - New Membership orientation dates have been updated to: February 23, 2025, after Sunday's service, and March 9, 2025, after Sunday's service. The induction

ceremony will be held during the service on Sunday March 23, 2025, with a celebration to follow.

- UUCOD's Yard Sale will be held on Friday and Saturday, March 7 & 8, 2025, with items to be picked up on March 10.
- Nomination and Designation of Attitude of Gratitude Note Recipients
 - In Walter Gendell's absence this month, John Ressler will write thank you notes to Sandy Sladen and Margaret Manson for their years of hospitality management. John will also prepare a card Jack Fitzsimmons and Walter Gendell for having the Board of Directors' party at their house last month, as well as Jack's certificate designs.

Unfinished Business

- Further Review and Discussion of Visioning Process and Possible Revisions of Mission, Vision, and Values
 - Rev. Ian recommended that this year would be a good time to work on updating the church's Mission, Vision, and Values statements. Since it's the 65th anniversary of the church, it's an excellent opportunity to plan for the future and have discussions with the congregation to update these statements in line with the various Article II changes.
 - Rev. Ian will invite people to figure out how to engage the congregation in this effort. He would like the Board to discuss this at September's Retreat and set milestones together.
 - Rev. Ian thinks this is a great year to coordinate the Church's anniversary with Article II changes. This is a time to think together and talk about how we wish to see ourselves in the world.
 - Rev. Ian suggested that we engage in small group conversations and record that information. Possibly the group could take these ideas and craft them into potential mission, vision and values statements.
 - Julia Alberg-Burbank wondered if there was a book that would tie into this process that we could reference for the Board for the next year.
 - Linda Savard likes the idea of small group discussions, because more people could be involved and can be heard.
 - Frank Riela suggested calling on people who have been here a long time and hear what they have to say about visions going forward.
 - On another note, Bob Rancourt reminded the Board that Board members are assigned to liaise with the various Church committees. Bob will email everyone ahead of the Board Retreat a list of Committees so the Board can align itself with committees that they are interested in. Additionally, Bob will also send out the current long-term and short-term goals, so that the Board can refine them.

New Business

- Review and Discussion of Monthly Reports
 - See attached detailed reports.
 - For President Bob Rancourt's summary of the accomplishments of his first year as Board President, please review his comprehensive report attached.
 - Attached is Treasurer Jerry L'Hommedieu's report, which discusses starting the coming year with a deficit budget but also projects a better year for FY 2024-2025 due to unanticipated income.

- Last month Frank Riela had suggested setting up a vehicle for anyone who would like to thank people in the moment for an accomplishment. He had some suggestions to name this project: a) Cheers; b) Snaps; c) Tributes; d) Bravo; e) Faz; f) Praise; g) Roar.
- Frank also talked about ways to create some “fun” within the congregation. His suggestions were: a Fall Ball or Spring Fling, or a Dinner or Dance in the Sanctuary. The idea is to build bonds of loyalty by meeting, mixing and mingling with each other just to have fun, with no other agenda.

Process Moderation

- Julia Alberg-Burbank reported that the Board Meeting ran on time and that everyone had been heard.

Chalice Extinguishment

- Rev. Riddell extinguished the chalice with words of gratitude that we bring our hearts and minds and spirits to this work.

Adjournment

- Bob Rancourt adjourned the regular Board meeting at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Claudia L. Simmons, Secretary

Date Approved: July 16, 2024.

Attachments

Monthly Reports

FY 2024-2025 Board & Fiscal Calendar

FY 2024-2025 Short Range Goals