
Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2024

Attending:

A meeting of the UUCOD Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, October 15, 2024.

Board Members attending in person: Bob Rancourt, President, Frank Riela, 2nd Vice President, Jerry L'Hommedieu, Treasurer, Claudia Simmons, Secretary, John Ressler, Director at Large, Rev. Ian Riddell, Minister.

Board Member Attending by Zoom: o

Board Members Not Present: Walter Gendell, Director at Large, Julia Alberg-Burbank, 1st Vice President

Others Present by Zoom: Linda Savard, Barb Storms, Rod Belshee, Fran Hoag

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 and online friends checked in.

Process Moderation

Process monitor was assigned to Jerry L'Hommedieu.

Consent Agenda

- The Board made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 17, 2024, Board Meeting. Jerry L'Hommedieu proposed the motion, which was seconded by Frank Riela. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved by acclimation.

Voices of the Congregation

- Review, Consideration and Discussion of the Membership Committee's Database Archives Recommendation.
 - o Barb Storms provided an update on the database of MemInfo, explaining that the Membership Committee has been working to clean up the files. The committee, after a

- joint meeting with Stewardship, recommended keeping records of active members, while moving inactive members to the archives regardless of their status. Visitors and friends are also in the archives, but many have no information, have moved, passed away, or have not donated for several years. Membership would like to remove these individuals from the system before transitioning to the new platform.
- Membership wanted to run this past the Board.
 - There was discussion about why we should keep people in the database who have resigned on the archival list. Bob Rancourt addressed the issue of data preservation and records retention. Barb points out that this process is very time consuming. She suggested that we should use the attached rules to eliminate groups of people, and she will check the Church's policy on records retention.
 - Rev. Riddell explained that each of the new replacement databases under consideration have varying purchase prices depending on the number of records we need.
- Leadership of the Church.
 - Linda Savard informed the Board that the Leadership Development Committee would like to host an informational meeting for those interested in learning about the responsibilities of being a Board member or a Committee Chairperson. The meeting aims to provide insights and encourage potential leaders to get involved.
 - The Leadership Committee said they would like to hold this meeting after church on December 15, 2024, and would like for some Board members to be present and talk about their experiences and reasons for volunteering to be a Board Member.
 - It was unanimously approved by the Board to support Leadership Development's proposal.

Old Business

- Final Review, Discussion, and Planning of First Church Council
 - Rev. Riddell discussed the agenda for the Church Council meeting for Saturday, October 19, 2024. The meeting will be held in the Community Room and via Zoom and is slated from 9:30-12:30. The agenda will include reviewing committee reports, identifying what support is needed from the Board, and going over the Church Calendar. Additionally, Rev. Riddell will lead a discussion on revising the Church's Mission and Vision statements.
- Finalization of FY 2024 – 2025 Short Range Goals
 - Bob Rancourt reviewed the Board's new focus for this Fiscal Year. The document was reviewed, edited and approved by the Board, and it is attached to these Minutes.
- Nomination and Designation of Attitude of Gratitude Note Recipients
 - John Ressler will do the attitude of gratitude this month.
 - Rev. Riddell would like to thank Rob DeWors and Carol LaVoy for providing desserts and more for the 65th anniversary party. Frank Riela also suggested thanking Rob DeWors, specifically, for baking specialty cakes for vegan and gluten-free attendees.
 - A separate note of thanks should be sent to Jane Zaun, addressed to the Stewardship Committee, for organizing the event.

Unfinished Business

- Consideration and Discussion of FY 2024 – 2025 Board Learning and Reading
 - Rev. Riddell revisited the questions introduced at the September Board Meeting, encouraging further discussion about on whose behalf Board members accepted their roles and to whom they felt accountable for their work as Board members. This reflection aimed to deepen the understanding of the Board’s responsibilities and accountability.
 - Rev. Riddell distributed a handout containing three articles by Margaret J. Wheatley for the Board to read in preparation for next month’s meeting:
 - The Promise and Paradox of Community
 - Islands of Sanity
 - Who Do You Choose To Be?

New Business

- Review and Discussion of Monthly Reports
 - See attached detailed monthly reports. The following are highlights:
 - Bob Rancourt reminded the Board that the Greater Palm Springs Pride Parade is scheduled for November 3, 2024. UUCOD will have a strong presence, including a float with banners on the sides of the truck, placards for walkers, and auto magnets featuring the church chalice and a QR code for the convertible. Denise Janssen Eager is working hard on organizing this effort to ensure UUCOD is highly visible during the event.
 - The role of a Board Liaison with a committee was explained, emphasizing that the liaison should stay connected by receiving the committee’s agendas and minutes, reaching out to the Chair periodically, and attending committee meetings occasionally to maintain communication and support.
- Review, Discussion, and Approval of DIBM’s Proposed Website Accessibility Statement
 - Bob Rancourt presented a draft of DIBM’s Statement of Accessibility and Inclusion to the Board, which is planned for upload to the UUCOD website. The document was reviewed, and several edits were discussed for refinement before finalizing it for publication.

Process Moderation

- Jerry L’Hommedieu reported that the Board Meeting ran on schedule and that everyone had been heard.

Chalice Extinguishment

- Rev. Riddell extinguished the chalice with words of gratitude, acknowledging the responsibility, kindness, and spirit that everyone brings to their work.

Adjournment

- Bob Rancourt adjourned the regular Board meeting at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Claudia L. Simmons, Secretary

Date Approved: November 19, 2024.

Attachments
Monthly Reports

DRAFT