

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2020

Presiding: Scott Kestner

Secretary: Rich Williams

Process Observer: Ashley Rothermel

Attendees: Betsy Bicknell; Scott Kestner; Kaye Cook; Rich Williams; Rev. David Miller; Mark Magee, Darryl Branting.

Absent: Matt Higgins

Spiritual Opening/Chalice Lighting

Rev. David Miller

Minister's Report

Rev. David Miller

Current Affairs: We had an online meeting earlier this evening with staff and lay leaders to discuss what we are doing and the communications plan. I have a conference scheduled tomorrow with 10 area congregations putting together a chart, looking at ways to collaborate.

Thursday evening Rev. Alice and I are hosting a Zoom meeting to allow congregants to check in on how they are doing. We are working with a diminished UUCF office staff.

We had a brief technical interruption during the service streaming Sunday, but it was brought back online quickly. There were 181 different ISP addresses that logged in during the service with as many as 125 at any given period.

I have had phenomenal feedback on how much our connection means to people.

Line of Credit: The board needs to vote on the person authorized to sign a line of credit letter. Currently Rich Sider is authorized, and it needs to be changed to UUCF's Finance Manager Gayathri Tillekeratne. Motion to approve: Darryl; Second: Ashley. Approved: 7 Yea, 0 Nay.

Bridge Repair: The wooden boards supporting the walkway bridge leading to the Memorial Garden are Defective. The work needs to be performed by a contractor and the initial bid is for \$12,000. Because of concerns for expenses that may arise during the pandemic, approval for the repair has been tabled. Potential renegotiated and/or alternative bids may be considered, but access to this section of the walkway will need to be restricted for the interim.

Membership: We have 22 new members that have joined since October 2019.

Treasurer's Report

Darryl Branting

Dashboard: A dashboard slide presentation indicates that pledges are on schedule, based on historical Pledging. Darryl expressed discomfort with the current operational reserve of \$93,000 when we should have \$300,000.

Rental Income: It is expected that we will have refunds of deposits for scheduled events. The Montessori School is closed with possibly a month of refunds due.

Repurposing: There are some small pools of funds that should be repurposed (from their original designation) in order to access. One is the balance remaining on the money raised for the playground in 2005, \$5,000. There is no longer a record of the donors. Gayathri has been asked to develop an accounting of these funds. The question is whether it requires a congregational resolution or can be voted on by the board.

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Roofapalooza: Based on the incremental growth of this capital project, the driveway circle work can be done.

Special Congregational Meeting

Rev. David

Congregational Vote: For the ordination of John Monroe scheduled for May 24, the congregational special meeting to approve ordination at UUCF scheduled for Mar. 15 had to be postponed. The option of congregational approval on the same day of ordination may need to be Considered. The bylaws only address the requirement for a congregational special meeting in the removal of a minister.

Focus Groups

Scott Kestner/Mark Magee

For now, the scheduling of the focus groups is postponed.

Rev. Alice has organized a ministry project with groups of 10-12 based on congregants' addresses, each with a team captain, to serve as mutual aid groups. A similar structure might serve as natural focus groups for UUCF.

Open Enrollment

Rev. David/Scott Kestner

The Open Enrollment operations team is meeting tomorrow night with the objective of encouraging one-time pledging units to switching to recurring pledgers.

The question of whether we could/should commence the open enrollment during this period is balanced against people's financial insecurity. The depth of congregants' appreciation for this community will hopefully be very substantive.

Endowment Fund Grants

Darryl Branting

Upgrade Building Locks: \$6,000, Bill Braband. This was an issue during the safety inspection. Door locks for the Sanctuary and Program buildings would be upgraded to electronic locks that could remotely locked/unlocked. Motion to approve: Rich; Second: Kaye. Approved: 7 yea, 0 Nay.

Social Justice: \$3,500, Dan Rothbart. This request is for immigration training supporting Social Justice. The full proposal was for a total of \$8,500, which incorporated \$5,000 for transportation Expenses. Discussion on deferring pending the current restrictions. Motion to disapprove/Return to the Endowment Fund Committee: Betsy; Second: Mark. Approved: 5 yea, 2 nay.

Grant Request – Fund for UU Social Responsibility

Scott Kestner

UU Board Support Letter: Requested by Eric Goplerud, Climate Action Group & Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS). The grant request is to support CAG/FACS in mobilizing efforts throughout the region, advancing climate change awareness and action. Eric will author a letter for the board's approval.

Bylaws Review Question

UUCF Closure Authority: Currently the senior minister and operations manager are authorized to close UUCF activities as a result of a snowstorm, but no other condition is stipulated in the bylaws. The Bylaws Review Subcommittee shall consider expanded language (such as a safety condition).

Congregation Voting: Also referred to the Bylaws Review Subcommittee to review congregational meetings

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and required voting.

Board Observations

Leadership Development Team: Kaye. The Leadership Development Team is proposing a joint meeting with the board and Nominating Committee.

Legacy Giving Seminar: Betsy. This was a very good seminar. Several were in attendance.
Noting: Having a spirit of legacy and honorariums doesn't have to be about money.

Process Observer

Ashley Rothermel

While a Zoom meeting is somewhat awkward, felt that we did well, resulting in a smooth and productive meeting.

Next Scheduled Meeting Apr. 7, 7 p.m.

We will not call into session earlier, unless urgent conditions merit.

Spiritual Opening: Darryl

Process Observer: Mark

Respectfully Submitted: Richard Williams