

October 17, 2023
UUFH Board Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Rev. Debra Haffner
Gerri Farrell
Ken Buley-Neumar
Laura Otton
Michele Lauer-Bader
Allyson Barish
Connie Rinaldi
Vivian Storm
Jim Rubin-Perez
Jenna Kern-Rugile

Guest: Terry Donaldson

Check-ins

I. Proclamation

A. Town of Huntington issued Proclamation in honor of UUFH 75th Anniversary and contributions to the community

II. Search Committee Survey Results

- A. Terry Donaldson provided a preview of the search committee survey results to be presented to the congregation at upcoming cottage meetings
- B. Presentation discussed participation in different aspects of fellowship life and feelings about the strengths and challenges facing the fellowship, including the congregation, pledging, and the minister.
- C. Takeaways: Overall positive results. People are feeling engaged, positive and inspired.
- D. (Terry departed the meeting)

III. September minutes unanimously approved

IV. Reminders from the secretary

V. Rental

A. Estimate for painting

The space formerly occupied by the preschool needs to be painted, but the estimates received so far are quite high.

Total (main + cottage, primed only)	26,390.00
-------------------------------------	-----------

Total (main + cottage, painted complete)	27,785.70
--	-----------

We will ask Jason to get 1-2 more estimates then determine whether a congregational meeting is necessary to authorize the work.

B. Vivian will work with Ken to draft a charter for rental committee

- 1. Broker has not done any additional showings. His listing contract is up at the end of December.

2. Discussion of whether to consider tenants only interested in shorter term leases
 - a) Board's strong preference is for a long term lease, but an 18-month lease is acceptable. Shorter term lease (12 months) will be considered, but will require further discussion.
3. Acceptance of a tenant will require analysis of credit worthiness
4. The rental committee will dissolve after all units leased
5. Prospective tenants must meet Sandra and Rev. Debra before leasing

VI. Finance Report, Allyson Barish

- A. No fundraising income for now, but we are selling pumpkins now.
- B. Expenses are on target given the time of year and scheduled annual expenditures
 1. Building and grounds a bit over for maintenance and repairs primarily for cleaning carpets and chairs.
 2. Large nonrecurring expense for grounds
- C. Allyson is finalizing changes to expense reimbursement procedures and will scheduling a training session for committee chairs who are approving expenses and generating expenses.
- D. Paypal and Zelle
 1. Now being used for pumpkins
 2. Will be available for Sunday giving next month. Delay is to avoid confusing Sunday contributions with pumpkin revenue.
- E. Discussion about use of Van Roy Endowment for speakers
 1. 2012 Endowment committee meeting minutes discuss the fund
 2. Bequest has specific language about how expenses should be credited and acknowledged. Need to ensure compliance. Allyson will evaluate rules on usage and crediting funds.
- F. Discussion of funds previously set aside for playground and other designated funds
 1. Temporary funds are annually freed from endowment. Money was taken from interest and earmarked for a playground, but never used.
 2. Alyson will investigate whether and how this money and other previously designated funds can be reallocated.

VII. 75th Anniversary

- A. The 75th Anniversary was a wonderful celebration. The Board greatly appreciates the work of the 75th Anniversary Committee and in particular Liza Burby.
- B. The celebration came in under budget

VIII. Website

- A. Navigation pathways are being finalized
- B. Will be using Churchgo platform
- C. Churchgo will submit a contract and start building the new website. It may possibly available for Beta testing in a few weeks.

- D. The new website will be kept in Beta for several weeks before making it live to the public to ensure that it is fully functional and usable.
- E. New candidates should be able to see website when they are learning about us

IX. Our Whole Lives (OWL)

- A. The middle school and high school traditionally offered the program through LIAC rather than individual congregations. Some congregations on Long Island never participated though. UUFH agreed not to teach OWL because that would prevent others from having a critical mass of young people to run the LIAC program. Shelter Rock does run their own OWL.
- B. LIAC hired a coordinator, but OWL has not been offered since 2019 because of the pandemic. LIAC attempted to offer OWL this year, but announced the program without enough lead time for young people to register. As a result, the program was canceled due to low enrollment. All registered students were from UUFH and other UUFH youth expressed disappointment that they could not attend because of the late announcement of the program dates.
- C. Extensive discussion about the pros and cons of attempting to offer OWL as a UUFH program. Concern about kids missing out on time to meet other UUs v. missing out on OWL altogether waiting for LIAC to be able to offer the program.
- D. Unanimous vote to ask Rev. Debra to explore whether we can offer OWL ourselves.

X. Governance

- A. Charters are in place for all committees except strategic planning and building and grounds.

XI. Responsibilities for initiatives

- A. Outreach - Jenna Kern-Rugile and Jim Rubin-Perez
 - 1. Ideas for the future
 - a) Trunk or treat
 - b) Outreach to other progressive groups
 - c) Coordinate with social justice
 - d) Family events
- B. Evaluation of governance model - Ken
 - 1. Update congregation on where we are with governance
- C. Governance outreach to chairs - Laura and Gerri

XII. Reactions to Board retreat

- A. Covenant needs to be drafted - Doodle poll for a meeting to do this