

UUFH Board Meeting

April 16, 2024

Attendees: Rev Debra Haffner, Gerri Farrell, Ken Buley-Neumar, Jim Rubin-Perez, Laura Otton, Jenna Kern-Rugile, Allyson Barrish, , Connie Sorscher, Michele Lauer-Bader and Vivian Storm. Joined by incoming Board members: Susan Peters, Jon Nielsen, and Liza Burby.

Chalice Lighting: “We Meet Together Today” by Ben Ogliv

Covenant – Reviewed

Secretary’s Reminders – Second Congregational Meeting Reminder e-blast needed. All financial documents to be updated. Keys to be returned/given out. Committees to write annual reports. New Membership List to be generated.

Discussion and Vote Items:

March Board Meeting Minutes – the Board unanimously approved March minutes with correction of Unsung Hero nominations “by the end of April,” and “notify members of Zoom link to first congregational meeting.”

Discussion Items:

Evaluation of Governance Structure (Laura & Rev Debra) – Laura interviewed Rev Debra, Sandra, Ken, and Committee Chairs for their feedback, concerns, and will compile a report for the Board. Next, remaining Board will provide input re: assessing their newly more strategic roles compared with former more operational focus. Input already obtained from Ken, Gerri, and Shelley. “How has this year been different from previous years” discussed. Rev Debra offered input re: How to handle the enormous tasks/duties of Building & Grounds. Perhaps consider making Building separate from Grounds? How can the Past President’s role, which is “very full,” be more manageable? Should ‘less busy’ board members be called on to take on more duties, without re-establishing ‘board liaisons’ roles? Consider how other congregations choose to assign roles, e.g. co-presidents, 2-year presidency. New Lines of Communication procedures are being documented.

Treasurer’s Report - Finance, Budget, Stewardship Campaign (Allyson) – At 3/4 of the way through the year, we have received 67% of income. Low due to Little Learners rental loss & that the Services Auction had not occurred yet. Pledges are at 72%; should be 75%. There is usually a flurry of incoming pledges at the end of the year. Financial statements will go out at the end of April. The longterm lessee will add rental income as of next month.

Next year’s budget (2024-25) is in process. Exec Comm is reviewing. Castle Care and Buildings & Grounds need finer going over. Funding needed to take care of water mitigation. Need to add a budget line for legal consulting (\$5K). Need to consider family healthcare coverage for a possible new minister with family. Allyson will be reviewing Van Roy Fund source document regarding possible proposal. Stewardship was notified of a possible bequest from a prior member.

Apartment Tenant – April rent paid, furniture has been moved. Tenant has made no contact attempts.

Rental broker - Inquiry from homeschooling cooperative. Vivian is working on a new contract with new real estate broker, will seek Exec Board's guidance. Old broker is deficient/ out. "Pink Haven" family needs housing now. Family is working in NYC. Would UUFH qualify to offer housing for sanctuary (below market value)?

Music Director Search Update– Ken – Round 1 was not successful at finding a candidate. Ads placed with Indeed and Choral Societies. Two candidates were interviewed. Both could do our job. Next step: 20 minute teaching demos with the choir.

Ministerial Search Committee Update – We did get one second round candidate. May get more by Friday.

Accessibility Task Force Update - (Ken) – Goal: to get people up the steps to the chancel. Ken will consider the make-up of task force in the next week (may include Worship/RE Committee, Building & Grounds, Social Justice and input from Minister).