

UUFH Board Meeting

January 21, 2025

Attendees: Laura Otton, Gerri Farrell, Allyson Barish, Liza Burby, Jim Rubin-Perez, Connie Sorcher, Jenna Kern-Rugile, Susan Peters, Jon Nielsen, Pastor Madelyn Campbell

Chalice Lighting – Into Many Coming Years – Mary Shelden

Covenant (Liza) – Reviewed.

Discussion and Vote Items:

Consent agenda – Revisions to December’s Board Meeting Minutes will be forwarded for Board approval vote via email. Minister’s report accepted edited with spelling updates.

Stewardship Target Goal – (Allyson) Jen Sappell is leading this year’s Stewardship Pledge Drive, and will be leading two high donor parties next weekend. Last year’s targeted pledge goal was \$335,000. This year, we are moving away from the “thermometer” showing a goal dollar amount. Proposed increases in minister’s salary, benefits, and other salary increases push the target to \$368,000. Total budgeted expenditures total \$526,800. Current membership is 223. The concept of a “fair share” pledge was discussed. Pledges as a percentage of income was discussed. Who should be included among the “high donors” and invited to attend the high donor parties, which help entice a high percentage of pledge dollars to commit early in the pledge drive. Additional helpers are needed with the pledge drive. Gerri will ask Jen for a list of tasks that need doing, and will get it to Board members so they may help. Allyson and Laura will address the pledge party on Saturday; Liza will speak at Sunday’s event. Allyson will reach out to her Touchstone groups as well.

Governance Evaluation Survey – (Laura) – To which members of leadership should the survey go? Questions were approved by board. Will add “does anything else need to be addressed?” Survey should go to Chairs, Subchairs and Team Leaders. Have each person fill out what their role/position/title is. Laura will list the people she thinks should complete the survey and send it to the Chairs to make sure all pertinent leaders are included. Laura will send it out to leaders in early- mid February, and will give leaders a week to complete it.

Apartment Update (Laura) – Town lawyer received our letter, but has not responded yet. Gerri will follow up with Jason to find out what has been done to refreshen the apartment. No update on our rental income space.

Finance (Allyson) – No Treasurer’s Report this month. Allyson will be working to determine into which funds donated monies should go. Paper envelopes are still available for people to designate where they would like their contributions to go. Allyson will meet with Sunday Plate counters, and work on EOY financial statements.

Girl Scouts and the ReWild Program – Lily D’Orazio and two other Girl Scouts will be working on a Silver Award project that will include building a native perennial garden, bench, bird houses, bird bath & bird watching guide. The girls will also develop a website to go along with the project. Board discussed

needing to update the fundraiser policy and will need to vote to approve the proposed bottle return fundraiser to help pay for the project. Building & Grounds will help guide the construction of the garden, bench, bird houses & bird bath.

General Assembly – (Liza) The Flash will hope to recruit up to 5 delegates to represent the UUFH at this year's General Assembly, which will be held in person in Baltimore, MD as well as via Zoom. The UUF will pay the delegate fee of \$150 to be a delegate, but the expense of attending in person will be the responsibility of each delegate. The annual budget has \$1200 for denominational conferences. Spouses can each be delegates. Also, a non-delegate may attend GA.

DRE for Next Year– Thoughts (Connie) – Discussed that RE Committee is overloaded, and new RE Committee members are needed. Still asking “what do we envision for next year; what do we want for a DRE? UUFSB has a 20 hours/week DRE position. What are the benefits/limitations of sharing a DRE? What type of program do we want? We need input from the Minister, RE Committee, and RE Coordinator. Our Children's Service is scheduled for 3/30, and it will need organizing and rehearsals. Other RE events/projects will include Mystery Pals, Services Auction, EOY RE Party. Pastor Madalyn suggests that RE Committee discuss what things can be let go of for this year, until we have a DRE. Need to increase budget for even a half-time DRE; not possible for next year. Discussed possibly asking if Shelter Rock could assume 10 hours/week to help us out. Find out if Freeport has anyone doing RE. Jim will be in touch with UUFSB; will find out if Shelter Rock has a youth advisor.