

UUFH Board Meeting

March 18, 2025

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

Chalice Lighting – words by Pat Uribe-Lighty

Covenant – read by Jon Nielsen

Discussion and Vote Items:

Consent agenda – February’s Minutes and Minister’s Report unanimously approved. Parking Spaces for the Auction Gala—removed from the consent agenda. Allyson requested a discussion about the location of the spots and making them more desirable, closer to the entrance. The decision was made to keep them as they are in order to remain accessible and there are permanent posts. The offer of 2 spots was then approved unanimously.

Stewardship- Jennifer Sappell, chair of Stewardship, sent a list for phone banking remaining members who have not yet pledged. Gerri will email the list to Jon, Susan, Allyson, Jenna and Connie, who have offered to make the necessary phone calls. Pastor Madelyn offered to send a video she made to provide some training and guidance. Allyson suggested a zoom call with Jennifer to provide additional strategies. It was agreed that she should contact Jennifer regarding this.

Finance – Allyson reported that the P &L, as of the end of February, shows a positive balance despite being behind on rental income, and over on what was allocated for snow plowing. Much of the Building Ground expenses have not been incurred yet and some expenses such as using a Lareda Consultant for RE, will not be happening. The 2025-26 budget process has started with committee budgets due, and a draft budget should be ready by April 9 to be presented to the Executive Committee and then to the BOT before the April board meeting. Zoom budget forums with the congregation are tentatively scheduled for May 7th and 8th with a final vote planned for the May 18th congregational meeting. Allyson explained how the Endowment distribution is now part of the budget, and the committees include any “special” requests as part of their budget request. Pastor Madelyn said this is standard practice. We all thank Allyson for doing an incredible job. We can now include the income from classroom rentals and the apartment rental in the new budget.

Bylaws and Congregation voting procedures – the Bylaws Committee has completed the review of the first 3 Articles of the current bylaws. The board discussed changes to the congregation’s voting procedures and bylaws. They agreed to remove a provision allowing the board to vote on behalf of the congregation if a quorum is not met, as this goes against congregational principles. They also decided to simplify the

bylaws regarding voting, specifying only that proxy votes are not allowed while leaving flexibility for future voting methods. The board agreed to change the process for adding items to the congregational meeting agenda, requiring members to bring proposals to the board first rather than automatically adding them to the agenda. The board will decide if the item is appropriate to being brought up at the annual meeting. A petition process with 25 signatures remains as a safeguard to call special meetings if needed. There was a discussion regarding removing the “friends” category from the bylaws, as it was deemed unnecessary and restrictive. There should just be a policy. There was a discussion about scrapping the requirement for minimum annual support for friends. We want to leave the door open for potential membership by allowing regular attendees to be included in the directory. The bylaws team is continuing the review process during the coming years.

Long term rental tracking and Policy – There was a discussion about the need for better tracking and management of long- term rentals, with the office director taking on a key role of keeping track of leases and letting the board know 3 months in advance when the end of the lease is coming up. This is so any changes that might be needed can be made in a timely manner. An ad hoc rental committee will be formed when there is a new rental situation. Someone on the committee should have legal knowledge and also should include the office director. There was a discussion regarding an issue of our current realtor demanding full commission for the new classroom rental according to the agreement we signed, although they were not involved in this rental. The decision was made to pay his full commission, as to fight this legally would not warrant the time and expense involved, and we want to avoid further conflict and potential risks.

Services Auction - The board is planning to make a Gift Certificate (from local businesses) basket with each member contributing \$15. Jenna will collect and assemble the basket by March 29th.

Contingency Plan – We will know by April 1 if we have a new minister for the congregation. Laura will contact the UUA and the Eastern District to gather information. An ad hoc committee consisting of Allyson, Jim, Liza and someone from the Search Committee will investigate possible plans.

Next Meeting – April 15th

Respectfully submitted, Susan Peters, Secretary