

UUMH Board of Trustees Meeting - July 15, 2022 – On Zoom

In attendance: Greg Heyl, Danielle Jeanloz, Tracy Johnson, Ed Mangiafico, Jon Nye, Naomi Turner, Liz Van Wye, and Joe Zahka.

4:00 pm meeting began with Tracy's opening reading.

Ed Mangiafico, Board President, welcomed Jon Nye officially to the Board of Trustees and the position of Vice President.

Ed added an agenda item: Whether or not the UU Meeting House should participate in this year's First Night events?

The Board unanimously approved of minutes for June, 2022.

Tracy Johnson reviewed the Minister's report. She expressed concern about sparse attendance at the annual meeting. Her schedule for the year, including vacation and training, has been submitted.

She also submitted a detailed review of expenses for her \$50,000 compensation package for board approval: Salary \$29,100.00, Housing \$18,000.00 and Professional Expenses \$2900.00 as needed.

Greg motioned to approve the expenses, Jon seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

Tracy and the Board discussed presenting her monthly board reports to the general congregation, a suggestion made by Liz. After a general discussion, the Board felt that since many of those items are summarized in the weekly bulletin, it was unnecessary. The Board discussed the need to share board meeting minutes on the website on a more regular basis. Also, we will send a reminder in the weekly bulletin, that our monthly board of trustees meetings are open to all members of the congregation. A member simply needs to contact any board member for the Zoom link for that meeting.

Joe Zahka, Treasurer, reported that the final annual income from the Thrift Shop as \$52,000. That amount and by not currently having a Communications Coordinator, we had an especially strong annual financial performance. This coming year, however, is a concern. Pledging commitments are down by \$12,000 and we have had trouble meeting our pledging and plate revenue goals. We currently only have 58 pledging units this coming year; the past year we had 63. We will need to actively promote pledging year-round.

The Finance Committee recommended putting \$10,000 and \$30,000 from our gains this year into CD's to get better interest. Greg moved the motion, Danielle seconded, and the board approved it unanimously.

Ed discussed developing a broader pledging system and asked for feedback.

Ed – Pledge reminders should be done year-round, a pledging committee is needed, members can donate money and/or work.

Jon - Showing a range of what people are willing to donate might be helpful.

Liz - Dinner/gatherings with people reminding the importance of pledging should be conducted.

Danielle – The Board of Trustees needs to take an active role.

Tracy – Plans to continue to highlight the information in her sermons.

Ed – More discussion and an action plan will be put together in next month's meeting.

Joe Zahka, as Buildings & Grounds Chair, received a request from the First Night Committee – Will the Meeting House provide a venue for First Night this year?

- The event is on December 31st, 12n – 9 pm this year, there would be a bus stop near Meeting House.
- The FN Committee does not want to have a mask mandate. If masks become required by the CDC, they would cancel the activities.
- All other churches have committed their venues to First Night this year.
- The Old Wornout Jug Band would be at our Meeting House as in the past. If we do not provide a venue, that band would no longer be able to participate.

Greg and Naomi suggested that it is the right thing to do to support our community. Joe also recommended we do it and the rest of the board agreed. Tracy thinks we should discuss with this John Raye as chair of our Re-opening Committee, which the group agreed would be good to keep him informed. The Board approved unanimously to support Joe's recommendation to allow First Night to use our facility.

Jon Nye, as Solar Panel Committee Chair, updated the Board of Trustees on solar panels. The Solar Panel Committee reviewed and decided to recommend considering one of the larger systems that would support our needs and possibly more. We would track usage for over a year. We hope that the system will be funded by a generous donor. The board approved that we move forward to get a proposal based if we get a donation to fund the project and then receive the congregation's final blessing. There was unanimous approval by the Board to move the project forward.

Liz Van Wye provided a Security Committee Review

Naomi is concerned and does not agree with some of our current security procedures because she feels if we are too restrictive with our procedures, and we will alienate visitors, along with present and potential members. We need to send a welcoming message to the community. Greg brought up that if we keep people out, how do we decide when to open the doors, once locked?

Liz discussed that concerns came up from the membership committee, especially since they are often the greeters at the door. Do we lock the door at during the service? After a discussion on the pros and cons, the Board decided to keep the door locked for now but to review the possibilities moving forward.

How can we be welcoming and as safe as possible?

Liz has put together a Safety Committee including – Deb Zahka, Kathy Nye, Beth Avery, Tracy Johnson, Robin Hubbard, and Liz Van Wye to review procedures and make recommendations.

Liz admits there are no easy answers – The locked door concept, while flawed, may make it safer but it's hard to determine. We want to be careful and welcome.

The Board agrees that Liz should move forward with a committee to explore more possibilities.

A new Endowment Board member, Steve Shorey, was nominated to the Board and unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees.

Next meeting – August 19, at 4pm on Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm

Submitted by: Danielle Jeanloz