

UUFCO Board Meeting

August 18, 2020

Location: Zoom call

Attending (via Zoom): Mark Steinberg, Daelene Schwartz, Susan Kinney, Fletcher Chamberlin, Chad Leonard, John Lawton, Ella Chatterjee, Rev. Scott Rudolph

Guest: Trisha Bell, Chair Membership Committee

Called to Order: 4:05

Minutes written by: Ella Chatterjee, Recording Secretary

Consent Agenda

The August Board agenda was approved. Fletcher moved that the minutes for the July 22, 2020 Board meeting be approved. Susan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Membership Discussion

The central issue under discussion was the “active membership” bylaw, which reads as follows;

3.03 Active membership requires a financial pledge for each July 1- June 30 fiscal year. Members will be classified as inactive members at the start of any July 1 fiscal year if a financial pledge or waiver has not been received for that fiscal year. Members placed in inactive status remain inactive for that fiscal year unless they resume financial pledges, resign, or die. At the start of the next fiscal year, notice of removal from membership is sent by regular mail to the last known address of inactive members. Removal takes effect six months after mailing of notice. Inactive members are not counted in the Fellowship census, have no voting rights or other membership privileges.

This bylaw and its requirement of a financial pledge as a condition of membership was discussed by last year’s Board. All of those Board members with one exception agreed that the financial pledge should be eliminated as a condition of membership. Because there was no unanimity on the Board, the matter was deferred to the next fiscal year and is now being taken up again by the newly constituted Board.

As things stand, we tell people that to become a member, you must sign the membership book and make a money pledge. Scott and Susan both questioned whether this is really who we are and how we want to present ourselves—i.e., sign and pay. Susan said that this has been a problem for some people and that some of them have left UUFCO because of it. There are some who may be able to give generously of their time and talent (e.g. teaching in RE) but lack the resources to make a pledge of money. Although they could seek a waiver, or make a nominal \$1 pledge, this can be embarrassing and can create a sense shame. Susan and Scott stressed that the important part of membership is relationship to the congregation, participation in a covenant, and that the money requirement may overshadow that. They both also stressed that financial contribution is critical to the life of the fellowship and that it is important that those entering membership understand that. They just think that contribution should be voluntary and not a condition of membership.

Last year, there was opposition to dropping the pledge requirement. Some expressed the feeling that people wouldn’t pledge unless it was required. At that time, the Financial Committee voted unanimously to keep the pledge as a condition of membership. It was noted,

however, that the presentation to the committee was made by the Board member who was opposed to dropping the pledge requirement and that the other side of the issue may not have been effectively presented to the committee.

It was decided that Scott and Susan present this issue at the next regular meeting of the Finance Committee and that the issue continue to be under discussion.

Fletcher pointed out that we have not been enforcing the bylaw on pledging. He stressed that something needs to change: either we enforce the by law or drop it.

Finance Report

Fletcher reported that the new accounting process is now completed and the difference between the preliminary Treasurer's report and the new accounting was very small—an overpayment of \$95.00 to Bethlehem Inn from a Community Collection. For this reason, Fletcher now believes that it is not necessary to present a revised budget to the Board. We can continue with the budget that has been passed and deal with variances if issues come up. Fletcher posted out that Leora appreciated working with the consultant and that our accounting process is now settled and solid.

The Finance Committee considered whether to take the \$5000 needed for battery replacement from the Regular Maintenance fund, the Capital Replacement fund, or the Building Reserve fund. The Committee recommended using the Capital Replacement fund. Fletcher moved that the Board approve taking the \$5000 from the Capital Replacement fund, Susan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Stewardship Committee

The committee continues to work on a communication plan for the year. They will be meeting with committee chairs to gather photos and videos of on going work, to be shown throughout the year. Laura Voisinet, the Co-chair, will have to step down because of family illness. Co-chair Linda Johnson may need help in finding finding someone to fill this position.

Personnel committee

There was nothing new to report on this committee.

Facilities committee

Parker is working on a 15 year plan that would give a picture of what to expect in the future, including such matters as the anticipated lifetime of equipment.

Endowment committee

There was nothing new to report on this committee.

Minister's Report

Scott has been working with other progressive clergy in Bend who have formed Clergy for Justice. Their purpose is to work closely with local social justice groups like Embrace Bend and CO Diversity Project to support the actions of these groups by standing with them, aiding in peacekeeping, presenting a presence for non-violence, and essentially acting to amplify the

power of these groups. The clergy group meets weekly and is planning on having matching stoles. The group will conduct a vigil in Drake Park, which will not be a demonstration, but an opportunity to grieve and show solidarity.

The staff will be having a retreat this month to work on envisioning the coming church year.

Reopening Issues

There have been two recent requests for use of the building. One is a request for an education pod. It was noted that this would take a lot of space, to insure proper social distancing and present issues of clean-up. The Board felt there was no need to allow this use of the building, given the problems it presents.

The second request is by a UUFCO member to use the building for a wedding. Susan pointed out that this would not be an all church event—i.e. an event open to the entire congregation. Such events are not possible because of the numbers involved. However, the wedding could be considered as a private event, with limited invitations, and should meet rental requirements even though there would be no rental fee. The wedding can be approved if the members understand that they must abide by the rental standards.

This raises the broader question of whether members may use the building for other purposes, such as committee meetings. The problem with that kind of usage is that it would require staff presence to open the building and cleaning of the space used as well as the bathrooms. That is an expense that the church cannot undertake at this time. Susan and Mark agreed to address this in the message that will go out to the congregation about reopening.

Meeting adjourned: 6:05PM

Next meeting: September 15, 2020 at 4:00PM