

UUFCO Board Meeting

August 17, 2021

Location: Conference Room, UUFCO

Attending: Daelene Schwartz, Laura Voisinet, Mark Steinberg, Fletcher Chamberlin, John Lawton, Grace Kennedy, Ella Chatterjee, Rev. Scott Rudolph(attending via Zoom)

Called to Order: 4:10pm

Minutes written by: Ella Chatterjee, Recording Secretary

Consent Agenda. Fletcher moved to accept the agenda for the August Board meeting and to approve the minutes for the June 2021 Board meeting. Grace seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Finance Report. The important thing to note is that even after providing bonuses for the staff, we are operating in the black and have put \$4,500 into the capital reserve.

The transition to QuickBooks has been completed and bookkeeping should be much easier from now on.

The Finance Committee is reviewing the reserves and policies governing where the money comes from for such things as building repairs or the meditation gardens. Better policies are needed for these matters. At some point, there should be an overall review of finances and it may be necessary to hire someone to do it.

The study for the solar project is moving very quickly. The finances are somewhat complex, seeking investors who buy and lease back thereby receiving tax advantages. If the Board approves the project, it should be made clear that investing in the solar project is a financial investment and should not be viewed as the sort of contribution made as an act of stewardship.

Stewardship committee. Effort needs to be put into building up this committee, which has lost some members. Tom Moore has written thank you notes for all the July pledges and thought is being given as to how best to honor major donors.

Personnel committee. Nothing new to report at this time.

Facilities committee. A good job was done by the company which applied the clear coat to the building at a cost of \$12,800. Another \$2000 will be spent next year on the gray siding. Parker got a new estimate on how to deal with cooling the battery room. It was suggested that this could be done at a modest cost of \$1700 by using, and branching off from existing duct work in the Linus Pauling room.

Because the carpenter who previously repaired bird damage was not available, Parker has made these repairs himself.

The office still gets too cold in the winter. As was the case with cooling the battery room, Parker will try to get someone to take a new look at how to solve this problem.

Endowment committee. The committee held their quarterly meeting on July 12, 2021. Several CDs are coming due. These will be cashed and then the money will be reinvested in other favorable CDs.

A marketing plan is being considered for getting more donors and giving recognition to them. It was understood that this effort should be coordinated with any similar efforts by the Stewardship committee.

A Zoom tax seminar is being planned for the fall and a future seminar on Medicare issues is being considered.

Minister's Report. The staff has been concerned with trying to determine what services will look like in the fall. Some efforts have fallen flat, like encouraging people to gather in the building to watch the Zoom services. When it is decided that we should try in person services, we will need to get fans and/or air filters to improve the ventilation in the sanctuary and gathering hall. The Board gave approval to purchase what is necessary to make safe in person services possible. Two shorter services are contemplated with no coffee hour. The hour between services would be used to clear the air. Children's' RE would continue on line because it is safer for now. The plan is to open for in person services on September 13.

The new music director, Erik Ekstrom, will begin next Sunday.

All of the staff, except Amy are now back in the church offices.

Auction update. The auction for the next year will be a hybrid event, with (hopefully) an in-person event on June 10, 2022 and an online auction to continue for two more days.

Reengaging members The Board is considering hiring a consultant to help with an effort to reengage members. It would cost approximately \$3,400 to have a consultant, using our mission and vision statements, to help us formulate meaningful questions for small groups of members. The Board decided that it would be wise to ask for references from the consultant and perhaps talk to other congregations about what their experiences were.

Board accountability All policies should be reviewed by the Board every two years. At present, newer policies have not been integrated into the policy manual.

The Board decided that the Past President, Mark in this case, should be in charge of policy matters, making sure that proper procedures are followed, reviews made when necessary, alerting the Board to the need for new policies and finding people to help with drafting any new policies.

Meeting adjourned: 6:05pm

Next meeting: September 21, 2021, 4pm, conference room at UUFCO