

UUFCO Board Meeting
September 21, 2021
Location: Conference Room, UUFCO

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

Guests: Anastacia Compton and Larry Price with Dan Orzech and Lou Stagnitto from Oregon Clean Power Cooperative attending via Zoom.

Called to Order: 4:10pm

Minutes written by: Ella Chatterjee, Recording Secretary

Consent Agenda. Laura moved to accept the agenda for the October Board meeting and to approve the minutes for the September 2021 Board meeting. John seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Environmental Justice proposal for Solar project. Anastacia explained that earlier this spring, Rev. Scott forwarded to her an inquiry from Oregon Clean Power Cooperative, a group that works with faith institutions and other organizations to facilitate solar panels and other clean power possibilities, often with little or no upfront costs. Several of the Environmental Justice committee went to a webinar to learn about it and then ran the project by the Social Justice Steering committee where it was met with enthusiasm. It was then decided to present the project to the Board.

In our case, the Co-Op envisions a project that would cost approximately \$177,000 and would provide 100 kw of solar power, about three quarters of our building's current energy needs. The Co-Op would raise the funding for this project in three ways:

1. A grant from the Energy Trust of Oregon would make up 11% of the funding.
2. An Investor who can take tax credits for the solar project would make up 31% of the funding
3. Investors from the community making a minimum investment of \$1000 would make up the remaining 58% of the funding. (This is referred to as crowdsourcing.)

After the Co-op pulls together these funding sources, it pays the solar installer at the time of installation and handles the repayment of the investments in the following manner:

1. The grant from ETO does not need to be paid back.
2. The tax investor benefits by taking tax credits to offset tax liability and is paid the fair market value for the panels at the end of the term (usually a few thousand).
3. The community investors are paid back over 10-12 years with a return of up to 4% interest. This money comes from the savings that UUFCO realizes in energy costs over the 10-12 year period, i.e. the difference between what we now pay for grid power vs. what we pay while generating up to three quarters of our own power needs.

Fletcher and Larry carefully went over the Co-Op's projections. They then changed some of the assumptions in those projections to be less advantageous than those relied on by the Co-Op. For example, they projected annual and cumulative results if the system generated 5% less than the Co-Op projected. They also projected a situation where the system generated 10% less and the buy out in year twelve was more than twice the Co-Op's projection. In each of these scenarios, the annual loss was almost always less than \$1000 and the results turned positive as the original loan was paid off.

The Board thought the Environmental Justice committee had done exemplary work on exploring the possibility of solar power for our building. They felt the next step should be to hold a Zoom meeting with representatives from the Co-Op to present information to the congregation and to provide an opportunity for the congregation to ask questions about the project.

Finance. Expenses as a whole continue to be below the amount projected in the budget. Receipt of pledges is a little below what it was at this point last year and rental income is still questionable because of Covid issues, but overall the finances are in good shape.

Stewardship. The committee had a strong first meeting with half of the committee able to attend in person. The approach from last year will be continued, but there is a question about the need for another video project. The cost has doubled since last year.

The committee is also considering a way to honor donors, to say thank you to the financial leaders of the fellowship. There was some concern on the committee about doing this when not all members of the congregation can make substantial financial contributions.

The Board encourages the committee to have some form of major donor recognition. This could be a simple affair at the church or at someone's home.

In addition, there is a need to give explicit thanks to those who contribute their time and talents and not just to major donors.

Facilities committee. The problem with the heating of the office space is going to be addressed by the installation of ceiling fans, which should assure that heat is properly circulated in the space.

There will be a meeting on November 4 to discuss the coordination of the various committees involved with the grounds and facilities.

Endowment committee. The October meeting was poorly attended. This is a problem because the committee only meets four times a year. The person responsible for presenting the main agenda item did not attend and so the committee had little to discuss. It would be good for the committee to work with the Leadership Development committee to try to determine how best to resolve attendance and other matters concerning the effectiveness of the committee.

Minister's Report. The staff has been working very hard to make in-person services safe and to provide Zoom for one of the in-person services. They generally feel good about the way things are going in this arena.

Reengaging members. The effort to reengage members through small group discussions will launch in January. It should blend well with the Stewardship campaign, because these groups will be exploring the underlying reasons for our support for and commitment to our fellowship.

Meeting adjourned: 6:10 pm

Next meeting: November 16, 2021 4pm, conference room at UUFCO