

Unitarian Universalists of Mount Airy
Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting
Sunday, July 2, 2023, 12:30pm
Hale Lounge

Present: Moderator Bruce Pollack-Johnson (BPJ); Assistant Moderator Catherine McCoubrey CM); Treasurer Nicole Bartle (NB); Secretary Louise Speirs (LS).
Trustees: Anne Arfaa (AA); Anam Owili-Eger (AOE) via Zoom; Stephen Workman (SW) via Zoom; Ministerial Intern Shaie Dively (SD)

Absent: Trustee, Leslie Ferron-Smith (LFS) and Minister McKinley Sims (MS)

Call to Order: 12:30

Chalice Lighting: BPJ

Joys and Concerns: All

Board Orientation Check In: LS and AA reported no specific questions but request ongoing clarification of roles. LS suggested and board will consider use of written orientation information. BPJ reviewed the following:

- The congregation is ultimately the decision maker.
- In between congregational meetings, the board acts on behalf of the congregation.
- In between board meetings, the Minister, Moderator, Assistant Moderator act on behalf of the board, and can communicate with the board via e-mail if input is needed, or to report significant actions.

Discussion: CM: It would be good to share this with the congregation. BPJ: Moderator functions as facilitator. BPJ requested feedback if he is not acting as facilitator. SW noted that, as in the US senate for the VP, the role only votes to break a tie. He referred to Eric S. as expert on Robert's Rules. AA requested clarification regarding her role as liaison to the Music Committee. BPJ and AA will meet together, then meet with Holly P regarding role of liaison.

Actions:

- BPJ to forward private board link and reviewed process of bookmarking the Board webpage.
- LS to contact Jane Hain to get her input related to the role of Secretary, including liaison to Membership Committee.

Confirm Liaisons (B&G, Membership, Music, Pantry, Worship Associates): Group discussed and agreed to the following. CM noted that different structures may be discussed based on restructuring discussions with MS.

- Building and Grounds: SW
- Membership: LS
- Music: AA (LFS was willing, but has family obligations right now)
- Pantry: BPJ
- Worship Associates: CM
- Religious Education: AOE
- Finance: NB
- Nominating Committee: AOE

Brief Reports/Updates

- Minutes of the last Board Meeting (June 11)
 - LS thanked all for helping edit minutes since the recording did not work.
 - NB noted the minutes are posted on the webpage and moved to accept the minutes. AA seconded the motion. All approved.
- RE Report/OWL Update (Nursery staffing)
 - AOE reports search committee includes: AOE; Linda P-J. Lela B.; Anna F.
 - Action: AOE will follow up regarding e-mail for applicants
 - BPJ noted Jean W. contract has ended. She has the option to apply for the position.

- Minister's Report
 - BPJ reviewed pastoral care priorities in absence of MS.
 - Action: SD requested that all board members report pastoral issues/concerns to her during MS absence.
- Treasurer's Report
 - We are where we thought we would be at the end of the fiscal year with \$10,000 going toward next year's budget.
 - Endowment: Last statement = \$355,000. No additional deposit since then. The deposit that we made during the year was the only reason our balance had gone up. The markets had fallen causing a loss on the rest.
 - Savings: Our savings account represents the funds we've collected for various committees and projects outside our general operating budget. While it's not considered "designated funds" in the accounting sense, that money is already earmarked for specific expenses.
 - Checking: NB notes there is roughly \$20k that should be used for either urgent needs outside the budget or moved into a short term investment account. BPJ notes the increase in checking account funds was to ensure funds for when MS began as minister.
 - Action: NB to follow up with Finance Committee.
- Building and Grounds Committee/Aesthetics (sidewalk)
 - SW reports no current projects at this time.
 - Action: SD to follow up with Mike F. regarding building improvement suggestions from an attendee at the Universal Convocation.
- Justice Council & 8th Principle Team
 - BPJ reported we have been accepted into the UUA Beloved Conversations Program and notes that some congregations may be encouraged to take/repeat trainings before being accepted into the program.
 - BPJ reports justice film/speaker series as suggested by AOE are being discussed in the Justice Council. Considering an environmental theme for the fall and then additional films in the spring.
 - CM reviewed the Trans Resistance Network in partnership with UUA Service Committee focusing on internal refugee status, need for housing. Also refer to action item on Trans Resistance Network

- Folk Factory
 - BPJ reports People's Choice Concert went well despite scheduling conflict related to March in Harrisburg group.
- Finance Committee
 - NB reports committee discussed returning to internal audits. Plan is to develop a guide related to internal audits using language people will understand. Will reconvene to review first draft.
 - Action: NB reports regarding audits, Larry H. who chairs the committee is reaching out to Eric S. who knows what the Audit Committee used to do.
- Pantry
 - Action: BPJ reports he will meet with Mike F, Larry H, Courtney H, NB, DS re: community pantry 7/10/23 [postponed until August]
- Membership Committee
 - No report at this time. LS to follow up with Jane H. re: Membership Committee liaison role.
- Music
 - Discussion: AA: Holly is well trained, enthusiastic and flexible. SD: Holly has made good connections with Worship Associates. CM notes Holly's background is similar to Jane's. BPJ notes a desire for a diversity of genres within the choir, including classical music. NB notes early days with Holly: she has only been here for six weeks. BPJ stated based on experience, concern regarding whether we will lose some choir members. AA requested a conversation to emphasize the richness and diverse tastes of the choir
 - Action: BPJ to set up meeting with AA and Holly P. to clarify liaison role and discuss diversity of genres for the choir.
- Building Use
 - BPJ reports Singles will be meeting over the summer.
 - SW reported that a Folk group is meeting 3rd Thursdays. Mile F. helped them with entrance to the church.

Confirm Days/Times for Meetings (Default/Summer) & Board Retreat

- Next board meeting via Zoom August 8th 7 p.m. SW noted that SD should be taking a break in August. SD agreed and added the meeting to the schedule.

- Board Retreat: BPJ noted it is scheduled for Friday evening 9/29 at 6 p.m. and for 9/30 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- BPJ suggested the next board meeting after that be scheduled for November. We will plan for board meetings to be in Hale lounge after coffee hour the first Sunday of each month. Alternate dates will be determined as needed.

Updates/Actions

- RE next steps (Search, summers?)
 - Group discussed childcare options for the summer. . BPJ suggested considering on call child care. NB noted we would need to pay them if they were on call but not needed, also suggested e-mail blast asking for volunteers. CM noted we need to make sure clearances are in place.
 - Action: BPJ will put a notice in the newsletter asking for volunteers NB to f/u with Jane and/or with Desi regarding a list of volunteers with current clearances.
- Services/tech in July/Baby Time?:
 - DS reports she is on top of her duties and in a good place for her responsibilities in the absence of MS. She and Rita worked well together for today's service.
 - BPJ noted 7/16 service 1619 project will be followed by a meeting with EMIR (Every Murder is Real).
 - Baby Time: deferred to August 8th meeting.
- Coffee Hour/Hospitality in the fall: Deferred to August 8th meeting
- Trans Resistance Network
 - CM reviewed the Trans Resistance Network. Applicants (families/kids) are vetted with the most urgent needs being money, then housing. Suggested Change for Change as a possible money raiser.
 - BPJ along with CM listed needs:
 - Increasing awareness
 - Setting up contacts for resources
 - Raising money
 - Hosting individuals/families. Further discussion planned for Justice Committee.
 - Action: CM to follow up regarding e-mail blast for our cluster of congregations.
- PIHN September?: SW reports no update

- Endowment Event: NB reports it is being planned for later in the fall, possibly November.
- David D. needs a couple of people for an intern committee (by fall)
 - SD to follow up with David at her next intern meeting.
 - CM reports being interested in supporting David
- Pantry: Ministry of our congregation vs. building user: Topic deferred to August 8th meeting.
- Key policy (outside door, Duo Room): Deferred to August 8th meeting
- Status/mission? of Aesthetics Committee: Deferred to August 8th meeting
- Long Range Planning: Deferred to August 8th meeting
- Harald proposal to move archives from our building to PA Historical Society: CM: Meadville Lombard Seminary is willing to store archives, but agrees that it makes more sense to use PA Historical Society, where our most recent records are.
- Bylaws changes (name, Modified Consensus, Audit Committee): BPJ: modified consensus replaces majority rule. Further discussion on Robert's Rules deferred at this time
- Follow-up with History: Deferred to August 8th meeting

Future Plans: Deferred to August 8th meeting

Extinguishing the Chalice and Adjournment: 2:30

Next Meetings:

- Board Meeting via Zoom August 8th 7:00 pm
- Board Retreat Sept. 29-30 (Friday evening & Saturday morning and afternoon)

UUs of Mt. Airy calendar:

https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/embed?src=minister@uumtairy.org&ctz=America/New_York

