

UUSMC Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2018

Attendees: Judy Pappenhagen, Michele Cavanaugh, Seetha Coleman-Kammula, Ram Ray, David Bonner, Helen Springer

Spiritual Opening/Reading/Discussion: “For a New Beginning,” John O’Donohue Judy/All

1. Approval of Minutes: Accomplished via email

2. Chalice Lighter Grant: Judy confirmed that our request for a UUA Chalice Lighter Grant requesting support for extending our RE Director position to full time has been approved. This is fabulous news! The amount granted is \$20,000 — to be distributed over a three year period. We will receive 50% of the grant the first year, thereafter 30%, and finally, 20%. Congratulations!

3. Service Auction: Judy led an after-service meeting on December 17 to discuss organizing our upcoming Service Auction, scheduled for April 14. While many functional slots for the auction have been filled, we still need an overall coordinator and general help in many areas. Please give Judy a call or email if you are willing and able to support this very important fundraiser for Mill Creek. Judy’s email is JPappenhagen@ChristianaCare.org and her phone number is (302) 379-3498. Your support will be GREATLY appreciated!

4. Minister’s Report: Tabled (Greg on study leave)

5. Finance Report: Judy led a brief discussion of Lauren Rickard’s Financial Notes for December, 2017.

6. Leadership Gathering February 17: We will hold a gathering of Mill Creek congregational leaders in the sanctuary from 9:00 am to noon on February 17. Among the topics to be covered will be the roll-out of REALM, our new church software system, and updating a congregational handbook. Committee Chairs and Board Members are requested to attend. Everyone is welcome.

7. Board Goal #1 Membership: The committee, as well as several processes related to membership and the hospitality teams, were discussed. We will be experiencing some changes in in the coming months, including the need a new chair in addition to our continuing need for additional committee members. Membership certification (official membership count) is due to the UUA Feb 1; we need to consider more closely how we track visitors to Mill Creek; how hospitality teams and greeters are structured; and how we might enhance volunteerism.

8. Board Goal #2 Policies and Governance: Helen offered a notional Table of Contents for an updated UUSMC Policies and Procedures Handbook. She has collected sample texts for each portion of the Handbook from other congregations and from existing UUSMC documents. The board discussed next steps, which would involve editing the material and choosing a method for central storage of the Handbook such that it would be widely available for use and for maintaining content currency.

9. Board Goal #3 Communication: Seetha agreed to take this goal for action. Generally, the subject will be understanding and documenting all channels of communication within UUSMC.

10. Growing Up —What Next: Judy presented two ideas for enhancing interaction among UUSMC members and friends. First, we will reinstate “Dinners for 7 ” gatherings and focus on intermingling newer members with longer-term members. The process will be re-visited and potentially rebranded as “Silver and Gold” dinners from the children’s song: “Make new friends and keep the old, one is silver and the other gold.” Also, Greg is interested in scheduling small group “cottage meetings” from April to October that would involve discussion of specific topics related to “what’s next” in our future planning and growth of our congregation.

11. Other:

- a. Solar Power Project: Installation beginning!
- b. REALM: Will be discussed at our 2/17 leadership gathering
- c. Safe congregation: Still needs action
- d. Holiday Party: A big Thank you to David and team
- e. Jack Guerin: Wants to start a new social action group
- f. Chitra Vaidy: Suggested congregational discussion of the book, “Just Mercy” after April potluck.
- h. Meadow Project: Our meadow needs management; we have a group interested in taking this on.
- i. Looking ahead: June-November 2021 (Greg will be on Sabbatical)
- j. David Pyle (UUA): Will be deployed June 2018 – April 2019

Closing Reading and Meeting adjourned, 8:43 pm

Respectfully submitted: Helen Springer, Secretary