

UUSMC Board Meeting – March 14, 2018

Attending: David Bonner, Michele Cavanaugh, Judy Pappenhagen, Rev. Greg Pelley, Janaki Ram Ray and Steve Selph.

- David reported the 2018 Service Auction is off to a slower start than usual...only about \$10,000 in commitments to date – the Auction raised \$20K last year.
- Brief discussion about reaching out to RE families about the Service Auction.
- MINISTER’S REPORT: (a) Greg reported Sunday attendance has been very encouraging last few months (b) Greg will be away for a few weeks around Christmas time; (c) Greg planning on his sabbatical June-November 2021
- Greg reported an increase in our annual contribution to UUA by \$1,100, due to a change in how dues are calculated (from number of members to a percent of expenses).
- David thought the increasing ask from the UUA over the next several years could be significant.
- Greg mentioned that we have always been a “ Fair Share Congregation” in contribution to the UUS and that the our Chalice Lighter’s Grant requires us to remain so,
- Judy thought we have made a commitment to expand RE program without adequate commitment of funds in the long run, however, we need to take a leap of faith to staff for the future or we will not be successful in the long run.
- Greg said making the Director of RE full time will involve an additional \$7,000 this year.
- Brief discussion about the DRE’s job description and start-date for full-time engagement.
- Greg said our budget is currently \$17,000 in the red – converting DRE position to FT will increase that deficit to near \$25K (numbers pending Finance Committee weighing in).
- Judy said that while the church has run deficit budgets in the past, reserves for this purpose are being used up and this is not sustainable.
- David, who has been a member of the Finance Committee in past years, said that year end gifts have often come in to help with deficits but we have lost some major donors.
- Steve offered a motion that should make DRE full time effective April 1. Seconded by Michele.
- The board voted unanimously to offer the DRE full-time employment as of become time as of April 1. Terry is to be commended for her excellent work.
- Ram said we don’t communicate enough with our members enough about our finances – Judy agreed with this, but the general consensus appears to be that this a difficult issue to engage the congregation members.
- Greg mentioned we are also decreasing our expenses monthly mortgage payments now 50% less because of the pay down from reserves in 2017; and solar is expected to bring down our electricity costs by \$6,000 a year.
- Greg reported that a Black Lives Banner has been ordered and it will be mounted at the entrance. He will send a letter to the congregation before the sign goes up. Other banners supporting our values are also being considered.
- Greg said an after potluck discussion of the book “Just Mercy” will be held on May 6
- Annual Meeting is set for June 10.
- Next board meeting – April 11.