

UUSMC Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
August 16, 2018

Attendees: Judy Pappenhagen, Helen Springer, Ram Ray, David Bonner, Anna Hull, Rev. Greg Pelley
Special Guest: John Springer

1. Chalice Lighting Judy
2. Opening Greg
 “In Transit,” by Naomi Shihab Nye
3. Tree Planting John Springer/All
John Springer explained the Meadow Stewardship Group’s concept for converting some of the UUSMC meadow to woodland to increase vegetative diversity. Essentially, native trees would be planted in areas B and G of the Meadow Stewardship Plan (behind the building, toward Polly Drummond Hill Road) to attract wildlife, improve the view, and reduce road noise. Trees would be selected from native varieties (Sycamores, Magnolia, Holly, Oaks, Maples, White Pine, etc.). Jim White, Associate Director, Land & Biodiversity Management at Delaware Nature Society, has offered advice and support to the Group. Accomplishing the plan requires participation from interested members of the congregation for funding, at about \$25-35 per tree, planting, and ongoing care. About 8 trees would make a good start and the process for converting the area to woodland can be stretched out over several years. John and Jamie will work out details for how and when to address the congregation and keep the Board informed. While no formal vote was needed at this time, the board expressed enthusiasm for the project.
4. Retreat Review - All
Brief review of notes and subjects discussed at the retreat: Engagement/Communication; Committee Structures/Organization; Brand Loyalty; Reaching Out to the Congregation; Cottage Meetings; REALM; Strategic Planning/What’s Next; Staff/Volunteer Roles; Membership; Parking; 5-Year Fund Raising Plan. Ram Ray requested the next meeting focus on our engagement strategy as this impacts the pledge drive and other growth goals.
5. Finances: All
Report will soon be made to congregation regarding end of year financial status. Approximately \$13,000 was raised through the Angel campaign and options for additional rental income are being investigated.
6. Generosity (Stewardship)Team: All
General discussion about organization needed for the Generosity Team’s upcoming campaign, e.g., should Cottage Meetings be combined with the campaign or be scheduled separately? What is best approach to planning for future congregational engagement? What is best approach for establishing a five year stewardship plan? Conclusion was that for the present, the Generosity Team should develop a strategy for this year’s every member canvass based on their best judgment. Small group cottage meetings to discuss the future goals and priorities of the church will likely occur in the January/February timeframe. We can use the feedback from the pledge drive as a springboard for these meetings. This schedule will coincide with our church 30th anniversary of founding at the end of February.
7. 30th Anniversary: Greg/All
2019 marks UUSMC’s 30th year. Greg has invited Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, President of the UUA, to address our congregation for a celebratory service perhaps in February, 2019. Discussed inviting former members of the church to attend.

8. Calendar

We will try to get ahead of the game with choosing dates for events and programs. We picked the 1st Saturday in December as the holiday party date as a start.

9. Minister's Report -

Greg

“Preaching and Teaching” will be Greg’s focus for this next year. Will use a ‘series’ approach to sermons; plans are underway for classes, including Listening to Our Lives, Sharing the Pulpit, and Through the Lens. Terry will work toward increasing her focus on directing the RE program and reducing time spent teaching.

10. Closing Reading

Greg

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Respectfully submitted, Helen Springer, Acting Secretary