

UUSMC Board Meeting 9/23/2020 – 6:30-8:30 PM

Attendees: Greg Pelley, Lemaine Peo, John Springer, Vicky Tosh-Morelli, Ann Draper, Brian Coleman, Joe Snader, Susan Klugerman, Heather Petit

Consent agenda:

Welcome to Heather

August minutes approved.

Finance, minister, and treasurer's reports received.

President's assessment will be included at start of meetings going forward.

Meditation sessions kicked off – led by Margaret Bodine..

Adult RE sessions have started 10-10:50 Sunday morning

Finances: generosity campaign will begin on 10/11.

Budget 2 yrs ago 270,000; effort to balance budget required reduction of DRE to half-time. Her departure led to a 13K surplus. Current budget is 220,000.

Closure of the physical facilities leads to reduction in expenses but also to reduction in income.

A standard recommendation for an organization such as ours it to have a 3-month reserve.

We have a current amount of 100,000 in reserves, including PPP loan and gifts undesignated.

90% of budget is bound up in personnel, UUA dues, and other items that don't allow flexibility.

We are executing the plan presented at the last congregational meeting.

Board members should be ready to respond if there are questions or comments about budget and generosity campaign.

Letter of Agreement

John proposed to change section 5 so that we don't tie the hands of future boards. Current wording says changes must be approved by majority of congregation. John recommends that he work with Greg on a substantial rewrite of the letter of agreement, with a goal of simplification, and present it to the board for agreement. Prior letter of agreement came from UUA model for letter of agreement from 2014. Greg proposed starting from the new model provided by UUA. In order to get a vote from the congregation, the board decided to present the new letter at mid-year meeting, followed by a voted with ElectionBuddy and a ballot for every voting member. We'll record the meeting and share the document as a way of informing congregants who don't attend the meeting. Board would need to review and approve the letter by December Board meeting. Goal would be to present letter at November meeting. Approach passed unanimously.

Live Sermons

Some congregants have asked to make sermons feel more live. Could we record from the old DRE office, use the sanctuary as a backdrop? John proposes delegating action to the worship committee. Greg needs someone to assist on the technical side. Worship team has a different mission, not quite technical.

Is there a way that we can respond to the concern but not in the specific technical way that was requested? The technical requirements are significant. We don't now have the equipment or knowhow for a production-grade streamed service. First U has a team of people spending 20-30 hrs per week contributing to livestream.

Do we want to look for people in the congregation who would be willing to commit to technical support for video? We would probably need a team for this.

Internship

Heather is officially on board. We need to put together an internship committee; chair and 5 members. Greg will take lead on internship committee.

Heather will attend board meetings and other committee meetings as she finds beneficial. Heather is already part of opening committee and attending meditation sessions. She will work with Greg and worship team to see where she can contribute.

Membership

Group reached out to all members and friends and corrected some details on who has departed and who is still present. Mission of reaching out to congregation was a success and may be something we want to repeat.

RE Program

Greg planning a Zoom session with RE parents. We're considering ideas for reaching out to RE kids without burdening parents with another Zoom session.

Generosity Campaign

10/11 – sermon kickoff

10/12 – Debby will send package to congregants

10/26 – John's letter

11/9 – Greg's letter

Phone-banking in mid-November

11/23 - Completion of campaign.

Polling Place

UUSMC was used as a polling place for the Delaware primary. There was a steady stream of voters; Greg and Debby stayed home; sanctuary was cleared of things that need to be sanitized; the building will also be a polling place in November.

Opening Committee Protocol

Feedback on the protocol document will be sent back to Anne Shuman and the Opening Committee.

Greg recommends that the AA group be allowed back one night a week; they will be in the sanctuary; we will need to sanitize every time; \$225 for cleaning, once a week. This would be a budget-breaker. If we do weekly sanitization, could we reduce the regular office cleaning to once per month? Is the sanitization necessary? Board agreed that it is. People will enter through main double doors from the parking lot, exit through single doors in sanctuary.

Board talked through two groups a day but this would require two cleanings.

The board unanimously passed a proposal to offer AA meetings twice a month through end of 2020. The AA group will be informed immediately. Board will reevaluate towards end of year.

Scheduling November/December Board Meetings

The board agreed to Monday Nov 16th and Monday Dec 14th at 6PM.