

UUSMC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date 4/13/17

Present: Judy Pappenhagen, Larry Stromberg, Steve Selph, Seetha Coleman, Michele Cavanaugh
Rev. Greg attended late into the meeting

Absent: MQ Riding and Vicky Tosh-Morelli

Chalice Lighting and Reflective Discussion was deferred tonight as Rev Greg was not present

Minutes: Minutes for the 3/22/17 meeting were approved.

- 1) **Service Auction-** Judy talked about planning for the 2018 auction and ways to get other involved with the planning and implementation of the Service Auction. It was suggested that veterans of the past process and planning need to write down their methods and help to instruct new comers to the process. The Board discussed how to engage new comers such as a direct invitation to be involved or to ask new church members to consider involvement. It was noted that tasks need to be broken down so that no one person is burdened with a large task. It was recommended that after the Service Auction this year a meeting of old and new or potential member of a team be scheduled for the purpose of sharing of information and eliciting support for a new team of people.
- 2) **Stewardship Team report** –Judy informed the Board that there are many pledge cards still outstanding. It is hoped that many of them will come in this Sunday.
- 3) **Bequest Congregational Meeting-** Judy reported that we must have a congregational vote to utilize the bequests to the church be used for mortgage debt reduction. A meeting date of 5/7 was decided and a letter will go announcing the meeting on Monday as that is 20 days' notice of the scheduled meeting. Putting this money toward the mortgage could save the church about \$20,000 per year in mortgage payments. The notion of adding additional moneys to the bequest would give congregation the opportunity to add some capital money as a legacy and lower the monthly mortgage payment even more. Some church members were approached to consider contributing more to the debt reduction as a capitol contribution paid out of time and the response has been favorable. The greater membership will be invited to contribute to this legacy giving as well.
- 4) **Staffing RE- Update** – Michele Shared that an ad went on Indeed.com for 2 quarter time (10 hours each) positions for RE coordinators and applications are coming in. When they are all in the team (Judy, Michel, MQ and Rev Greg) will screen for appropriate resumes and then interviews will be set up.
- 5) **Black Lives Matter teach-in-** Rev Greg will continue to use some Sunday services to preach on topics related to the Black Lives Matter movement following the process and plan already established for this education. He has also accepted the challenge of the UUA to preach on the

topic of “White Supremacy” on 4/29/17 after the most recent shake up in leadership at the UUA level (a letter was sent to the congregation about the leadership resignations and discord). It is quite possible this will cause discomfort and hopefully meaningful discussions. Steve brought up a notion that perhaps we need to broaden our consideration of all oppressed peoples in this new political climate as other groups are now even more marginalized and that it is no longer just the black community.

- 6) **Minister’s Report:** The Board reviewed and approved the purchase of the “Soul Matters” program which will help supply monthly topic and assist with service planning including readings, chalice lighting readings and assist for sermon writing. This would be a supportive program for service planning. The \$500 cost will come out of the Sunday Service budget (this has been planned in the budget). Rev. Greg talked about the up challenge to talk about “White Supremacy”(versus white privilege) 4/30 and that he anticipates this will be a challenge for the community. The UUA has asked ministers to talk on this subject to begin dialogue about these difficult concepts and realities in our world today.
- *Rev. Greg talked about the new program Realm is up and running and that it will need modification over time but it is a great tool to connect and promote community engagement.
 - * Rev Greg asked about sharing our entire plate this Easter Sunday with St. Mary’s Coptic Church in Newark. Fr Mina at St. Mary’s will send the offering combined with his church’s offering to the families in Egypt after the recent bombing of their Coptic churches.
- 7) **DNA Document** – Rev. Greg has all the material from the various meetings and discussion about our DNA. It is now to be collated and boiled down into a short values and behavior statement. Judy suggested we could post the statement in the lobby for individual to write comments on the boiled down version to help it be further refined by the congregation. Rev Greg will take a look at the work to date and ask Board Members for assistance in the next steps. Seetha volunteer to help along with Brian.
- 8) **Annual Meeting planning:** the meeting will be 5/20/17. Judy will ask for input from the various committees but doesn’t want burdensome formatted reports and would like to keep it simple this year. She is thinking of presenting a Power Point perhaps and this could be made available to the congregation via the web site rather than wasting paper on written reports. The nominating committee needs to get involved to get nominations for the Board as 3 members’ terms are up; Larry Stomberg, Vicki Tosh- Morelli and MQ Riding.
- *Judy wants to show appreciation for volunteers at the meeting
 - * pass the budget
 - * have an election of officers

Next meeting: **Thursday 5/18/17 at 7PM**

Adjournment : 8:56pm

Respectfully submitted by Michele Cavanaugh