



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Catskills

Sunday Services at 10:30 am

UU Catskills Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: 6/15/23

Present:

Mark Howenstein, President; Dr. Erin Hilgart, Vice President; Carma Haas, Treasurer; Tom Hackett, Secretary

Trustees: Donn Critchell; Kathy Eberlein; Joyce White

Lois Slade, Assistant Treasurer

Kristen Schara, incoming co-President; Kathy Atwell, incoming Treasurer; Lydia McCaw, incoming Secretary; Christie Billeci, incoming Trustee

Main meeting

The meeting began at 11:03 with Kathy Eberlein lighting the chalice as Mark read centering words. Board members then took turns reading from the covenant and shared in a check-in.

Review of minutes

Tom did not send out minutes in advance. He will send them to be approved via an email vote.

Treasurer's report

Carma sent out the report in advance. We anticipate between \$2k and \$3k shortfall. Under Building Rental, \$17k of \$19k is Play Haven. RE is over budget because of child care.

There was some discussion over Play Haven's request for an addition to our sign. There was general agreement that they could add their name as a separate piece at the bottom so long as they did nothing to jeopardize the overall sign structure.

Changes to the Chalice Lighters program were announced in a recent newsletter from Central East Region.

A question arose concerning who buys the Soul Matters materials. Carma will check with Vickie.

Donn suggests not paying for snow plowing until damage is repaired.

There was discussion about Play Haven and repairs to the farm house.

Donn moved that the Treasurer's report be approved. The motion was seconded by Kathy and passed unanimously.

President's report

Mark will be on vacation from 6/18 to 6/24.

Lighting changes in the sanctuary have been completed except for chandeliers on back order for the places in the ceiling where bare bulbs currently are.

Minister's report

Confidential files are in locked drawers in the minister's office.

Rev. Bob will be removed from the Ministers Discretionary Fund account.

Mark and Tom will be removed from all accounts.

Kristen Schara and Kathleen E Atwell will be added to all accounts.

During the week of 6/18, Rev. Bob will be in Pittsburgh. He will take his remaining week of vacation from 6/25 until the end of the month.

There is a funeral scheduled on 9/9 for Rusty Boris's mom. Rev. Bob will confirm that Diane Diachishin can officiate.

Rev. Bob will hand over his keys on Sunday. The codes for the sanctuary door need to be re-done.

Committee Reports

Committee reports were sent out by Donn in advance of the meeting. There were no questions.

Ministerial Search

One candidate wants \$1,200 per week for 26 weeks, each week consisting of Sunday and one other day. Another candidate is currently on vacation and out of contact wants half-time. She is currently an intern, not yet ordained.

Annual Meeting Aftermath?

There was general agreement that we arrived where we needed to be.

LGBTQ+ Update

Joyce stated that we are doing well moving our congregation from welcoming to affirming. PRIDE was a great success: Congregation showed up. She is hoping the congregation will close for PRIDE in future years. Joyce mentioned drag performer story hours. Drag queens are no different from professional wrestlers. There have been no protesters yet in Ulster County.

A monthly social gathering for LGBTQ people at UU Catskills is being started.

Danielle Liotta is the point person for LGBTQ social action issues. She is planning a workshop on how to work with the government.

A Future without a Minister?

Ministry and Services

Pastoral Care

Mary Evans is moving to Woodland Pond in September. Rev Bob. will ask Mary if there's someone else on the committee who can be contact for visitor questions.

Diane Diachishin is willing to work on Pastoral Care. Rev. Bob will ascertain her availability for the last week of June. Someone should sit down with Diane (and any contract minister we hire) about people who currently need pastoral care.

Joyce moved and Carma seconded to extend the meeting until 12:45. The motion was approved.

Administrative Oversight

Kristen will do Rita's annual review and receive her time sheet.

Kathy Eberlein can show potential renters around. Bill Lindsay is the contact for questions pertaining to B&G. [These changes were requested after voting to approve the minutes had begun. The Board should vote to approve this change.]

Interaction with the UUA

Barbara Kidney would like to start a denominational affairs group. Vic Melville is also interested. There will need to be someone who can inform the Board or congregation quarterly.

Old/New Business

Kathy asked that we consider reinstating "all ears." Some members felt it encouraged triangulation. Board members should brainstorm about open communication. Erin will follow-up on this.

Thank-you notes

Mark will do a card for Greg about lighting, and ask who else we need to thank.

Next meeting(s): 7/12 10 am

Centering: Kristen

Adjournment

On a motion by Donn, seconded by Carma, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 12:45