



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Catskills

Sunday Services at 10:30 am

UU Catskills Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: 10/18/23

Present:

Kristen Schara, Co-President; Erin Hilgart, Co-President; Kathy Atwell, Treasurer; Lydia McCaw, Secretary
Trustees: Donn Critchell, Christie Billeci, Kathy Eberlein

Guests:

The meeting began at 9:36 with Kristen Schara lighting the chalice as she read centering words. Kristen then read from the covenant and board members shared in a check-in and review of the council meeting.

Review of minutes

Motion to accept the minutes made by Kathy A, seconded by Kristen. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Motion made by Kathy A. to accept the snow removal proposal recommended by B&G. Seconded by Kathy E. Motion passed.

We will not shovel the farmhouse for Play Haven. They should be made aware of this.

We should work on fundraising for the congregation.

Perhaps we could organize something with Key of Q? They are doing holiday gigs this winter. (Note from your humble secretary who happens to be in KoQ: Please hire us! We are also super interested in fundraising right now!)

Kristen makes a motion to accept. Kathy A seconds. Motion passed.

President's report

Our suggestion box seems to have disappeared or perhaps was never created. We will check in with Carma to get that sorted out.

Animal Policy continues to be a concern. There is still some confusion over wording. Kathy A will take down the paper on the door and replace it with stickers - the full policy should be printed and given to Karen Millar for greeters to hand out upon request

We have several lapsed members. Kathy A. will follow up with people who have not pledged within the past 18 months.

We have some in person office duties that we should hire someone to take care of. We have 5 hours per week budgeted. Perhaps we could offer it to Anne from Play Haven for onsite duties.

Alternatively, we could use that money to hire Rita to oversee our social media and build up our online presence.

B&G discussion has been narrowed down to 2 dates. We have promised them a board facilitator.

Reminded that the Board should not push our own agenda. Instead, we should facilitate congregational decisions

We need to plan our "congregational conversation" meeting.

What would it take to restore the building? To lighten the load, perhaps we could have people explore different options and present them.

We should let B&G and Finance take the lead in the conversation.

We will need to send out information about the meeting via snail mail so that it doesn't get lost in email. Kathy E. offered to print and send out mail.

We should hold one lead-up meeting after a service and another on zoom. Perhaps we could record the meetings?

Meetings should be no more than one hour. Erin will organize with B&G.

November 12th or 19th are our suggested dates.

Kathy E will write up a draft of the letter to be sent out.

Regarding the newsletter column - we should consider framing it as a message from the Board instead of the Presidents alone and sharing the responsibility. Erin is willing to do next one. Kathy A. is willing to work on something for the December newsletter.

Committee Reports

The report was sent out. Nothing requiring the board's action.

New Business

We would like to organize a UIDN fundraiser to raise money for them.

Perhaps a potluck with a \$10 entry fee for attendance that would go towards UIDN

Could this also be a fundraiser for us with a 50/50 split of the profits?

Could we hire the newly formed cleaning cooperative associated with them? Kathy A will check in with Carma.

UIDN made a social media post (tagging us) showing the faces of children who received free school supplies - this is... less than ideal. Can we reach out to them about this?

We've been asked what our response is going to be in regards to the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Could we do something jointly with Poughkeepsie? Or with another local non-UU church?

We need to carefully navigate the political situation while keeping themes of humanitarianism and justice and love in mind when responding.

Kristen will follow up with Rev Diane on local actions.

Kathy E contacted Interfaith council but hasn't heard anything more from them.

Erin will reach out to Poughkeepsie and the UUA.

Could we organize a joint service with Poughkeepsie? They have a Radical Welcome service coming up that might be something we would like to be involved with.

Unfinished Business

Continuing to discuss delegation of GA Delegates.

Could we designate likely GA delegates in Jan and then formally vote later?

Is a ballot system allowable under the bylaws? If we think not, perhaps we should consider changing the bylaws at the next meeting.

This is actually something we could do at our planned January meeting.

Regarding the January meeting, the 21st is the preferred date, but that is very close to our board meeting that month..

To be addressed at the Annual meeting - Do we want to take a break from services in August?

Thank-you notes

Carma and Lois for their hard work on the hallwa

Do we have official UUCS stationary?

Next meeting(s): Nov 15 On Zoom. 9:30 AM

Centering: Kathy A

On a motion by Kristen, seconded by Lydia, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 12:33 pm