



**Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of the Catskills**
Sunday Services at 10:30 am

UU Catskills Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: January 19, 2023

Present:

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

Trustees: Don Critchell; Kathy Eberlein; Joyce White

Lois Slade, Assistant Treasurer

Kathleen Atwell, Mary Evans

The meeting began at 10:02 with Mark lighting the chalice as Tom read centering words.

Board members then took turns reading from the covenant and shared in a check-in.

Review of minutes

Since the minutes were distributed ahead of time, there was a request to amend them to remove references to specific individuals in mentioned in the Search Committee report. Tom moved to approve the minutes as amended. Donn seconded. There was a unanimous vote to approve the motion.

Treasurer's Report

Carma reported that we are at 70% of pledges received. The quarterly statements seem to be helping. One member was offended by the wording of the statement. Carma has spoken to the bookkeeper about wording changes in the letter, which is generated automatically by Quickbooks.

We are ahead of budget on donations, but behind on fundraising. We will exceed the budget on nursery caregiver. The B&G amount will be impacted by a leak in the utility room.

Rental income has been good. Investments have taken a hit and will do so again today.

Some of our major givers are no longer alive, and others seem to have stopped contributing.

Lois led a discussion on our Spectrum service. In switching from TWC, we will get faster speeds. If the Board approves, Lois will call Spectrum tomorrow to make the arrangements. We will be switching to mobile phone service. There are cheaper options for cell phones. There was discussion of separate accounts for Internet, mobile.

Donn moved to approve the changes recommended by Lois. The motion was seconded by Joyce and passed unanimously.

Carma mentioned that half-plate going well.

Erin Berthoff asking for a reduce rate for a toy/clothes swap on March 17. This was approved by consensus. We will have a table showcasing RE. Carma ill Invite Erin Burton, Jane Podell and Mary Evans to help with our table.

There was a discussion of reserves. Carma pointed out that a good deal of our investments are earmarked for the Endowment Fund, Capital Campaign Fund, and other purposes. We have close to \$90k in unrestricted assets.

Tom moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Kathy seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

President's Report

Mark reported that Carma has completed our UUA certification.

Kathy Atwell has indicated some interest in becoming Treasurer. She is at today's Board meeting to observe.

Mark's travel plans have changed. He will be away February 2 - 22. The February Board meeting is an issue. He will also be away March 31 - April 18. But he will be back for the April Board meeting.

Minister's report

LGBTQ+, UU101 were well attended. We have had a Covid incident, as has the Folk Guild.

As reported last month, Rev. Bob will be away 2/20 - 3/1.

In response to a question, Rev. Bob explained how his report is structured.

Rev. Bob said that Sarah Bissonnette-Adler has been impressive as administrative assistant.

How are visitors are getting here? Anecdotal evidence points to checking-out our website; driving by and see our signs and flags rainbow flag. Having a full parking lot on Sunday and cars during the week is attractive.

Committee Reports

Joyce asked if we should publish list of committees and members on a periodic basis. Perhaps it should be on the website as well. If that were the case, it would have to be password protected. Maybe it would be acceptable to have names of chairs only, on a non-protected page. Carma will look into it. Erin will send the current list to Mary Evans. Should it be posted somewhere in the sanctuary?

Ministerial search

Discussion centered on sharing the Congregational Record (CR) with the congregation. The search team supports this, and there are many positive reasons to do this. The CR online can be edited if members find mistakes. How would it be shared? Sarah can help setting up a link and mention it in the Update.

Volunteer Fair and Follow-up

The Fair was deemed to be successful. There were a lot of people, and a number of people were interested. Interests was highest for finance and tech. Unfortunately it was in conflict with UU 101. In some ways, it is hard to do it after the service. Fair doesn't have to be a minister Sunday – although we get more people on minister Sundays.

Follow-up:

Discuss with Council

On March 12, the Board has been asked to do a service. It will highlight some volunteers, including Board members. This will give another opportunity to interest people in getting involved. Board members are encouraged to send Mark an email if interested. The theme is Vulnerability.

Membership, Communications and Getting Involved

There will be a special meeting of the Council on January 26 on this topic. Council members and others will hear from Mary Evans and Jane Podell. We want to make sure people hear what's happening. We will also hear from Sarah about communication and social media.

BoT Service, March 12, Vulnerability and Volunteering

See above under Volunteer Fair

Memorial Arrangements

Rev. Bob shared information about arrangements for some of our departed members.

Stanley Goldstein's memorial is February 4.

Rev. Bob is waiting to hear from the Rabbi to schedule the memorial for Bobbie Katz.

There is nothing official on Shirley Bernard yet.

This sparked a discussion on a Hospitality Committee. Someone thought it came under the Caring Committee. Mark will talk with Christie Billeci, who is chair of the Caring Committee.

Coco Wilde may be interested in coordinating Sunday morning hospitality. We have a budget line for coffee hour supplies.

Rev. Bob mentioned that Gerry Harrington had suggested we provide simple snacks for Movies with Spirit (1/21).

Child Care for meetings

It is highly desirable to offer child care for meetings and activities. Child care providers are hard to get for evening meetings or later on Sunday. A good rule of thumb: If you want child care, have the meeting immediately after service. We have a child care policy, but it doesn't address how to go about how to find child care workers.

The Congregational Scenario Game

Rev. Bob shared a game he had created around congregational acceptance of new ministers. The Board participated in a quick round. It was interesting. It would be useful in other settings as well.

Grant Update/Lighting

A meeting with Greg Burton is scheduled for Sunday afternoon after the worship/tech meeting.

Pledge Campaign

We are behind schedule on starting this work. We need a budget to get started. Carma will get in touch with people who were on the Finance Committee.

February BoT Meeting

The February meeting is cancelled (discussed under President's Report).

In addition to Mark's absence, Erin will be unavailable February 1-18. Tom will be covering for Mark and Erin 2/2 - 2/18. There will be a peaceful transition of power (power? What power?!) when Erin and Mark return.

GA Representation and Voting

Barbara Kidney & Andrew Dalton have expressed interest in GA. The Board reiterated that GA delegates must be members of the congregation. They should be nominated by the Leadership Development Committee for election at the Annual Meeting.

Old Business/New Business

Joyce reminded us that, prior to the Covid pandemic, we were pursuing hearing assistance. Tom said that the Technology Committee would resume looking into this.

Thank-you notes

No thank-you notes were identified.

Next meeting(s): Thursday, March 16, 10:00 - 1:00

Centering: Donn

Adjournment

On a motion by Carma, seconded by Kathy, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 13:06.