



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

UU Catskills Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date: 5/18/23

Present:

Mark Howenstein, President; Dr. Erin Hilgart (leaving at 11:55), Vice President; Carma Haas, Treasurer; Tom Hackett, Secretary

The Rev. Bob Janis, Minister

Trustees: Don Critchell; Kathy Eberlein (leaving at 12:00); Joyce White

Lois Slade, Assistant Treasurer (arriving 10:22)

Other: Vic Melville and Margaret Sellers observed

The meeting began at 10:04 with Cathy lighting the chalice as Donn read centering words. Board members shared in a check-in.

Review of minutes

Tom distributed two sets of minutes (April Board Meeting and an email vote from early April). Tom moved that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Donn and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Carma distributed the Draft Budget, Budget vs. Actuals and a narrative Treasurer's report in advance. She also included Erin's Berthoff request for Play Haven. During the discussion, it became evident that the requests include some items that we would need to do and others that will need to be discussed with the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Donn will talk with Bill Lindsay about the requests which will need to be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

Some of Erin's concerns will need to be discussed with Jane Podell, the Director of Religious Exploration.

Donna Schlachman send suggestions from the Social Action Committee for next year's half-plate. The idea of collecting for specific charities each month and then dividing then equally raised some concerns. Carma suggests publicizing all the charities each month. Carma will speak with Donna about these ideas.

Kathy moved that the Treasurer's report be approved. Tom seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

President's report

Mark reminded us that the second budget meeting will be held this Sunday following the service.

The sanctuary will be closed from May 30 through June 9 for upgrades to the lighting.

The Pride parade will be held on Sunday, June 4, in New Paltz. Members and others are encouraged to attend the Pride Parade, as the sanctuary will be closed that day. For people who are not attending the parade, last year's Pride service will be repeated on Zoom.

Mark will let the Folk Guild know that they will have to cancel their June 3 meeting.

Mark noted that he will be on vacation from June 16 through June 24.

Minister's report

In addition to his written report, Rev. Bob lifted up Jubilee USA network, an interfaith alliance working to alleviate poverty.

July 8 is Rev. Sam Trumbore's retirement celebration at the First UU Society of Albany. Rev. Bob will not be able to attend, but will send greetings.

For Sunday, May 21, Rev. Bob is inviting everyone to bring fun clothes that can be used for props as part of the service.

Committee Reports

Donn distributed committee reports prior to the meeting. He noted that the reports could be shorter, except where there is information of particular use to the Board.

Ministerial Search

Kathy reported that there has been no change since last month. A lot of other congregations in the same boat.

Annual Meeting June 11

Nominations were discussed. It was pointed out that all officers have two year terms. They should be staggered so that we do not lose three or four in the same year (as is the case this year). It was suggested that the bylaws be changed to make trustee terms two years as well.

The Board reviewed a resolution on the 8th principle that will be brought to the annual meeting for adoption by the congregation.

For GA, each nominee will be voted on separately. [But see the following topic.]

Carma reported that the Outstanding Service Award recipient has been selected.

Rita Ruotolo, our Administrator, will create the AM package. Lois will print and make copies.

Follow-Up to Article 2

A meeting was held on the proposed amendment to Article 2 of the UUA bylaws. Attendees had a number of suggestions. The UUA has been holding online workshops. The last one is scheduled for May 27th.

The question was raised as to having a follow-up meeting. It could be May 26 or the week following. All delegates should attend and agree to take the sense of the congregation to heart. There will be an advisory vote at the annual meeting to get sense of the congregation.

There was an extended discussion on our GA representation. Vic Melville was added to the GA ballot. Lois withdrew her candidacy.

The earlier decision to vote on each candidate separately [see the previous topic] was reversed. All positions will be presented as a single slate.

Pastoral Care

The Board discussed how to handle pastoral care if there is no minister for a time. Rev. Bob will sound out Diane Diachishin on the possibility of retaining her to deal with pastoral situations. The money would come from the minister's salary. Lois agreed to be a point of contact as well.

Membership Policies

Mary Evans sent an email about what to do if we don't have a minister. The current bylaws say someone needs to meet with the minister before becoming a member. What about UU 101? In the absence of a minister, those seeking membership should meet with the membership committee.

LGBTQ+ Update

Joyce sent a written report prior to the meeting.

Sanctuary Lighting

An electrician was present on May 16 in preparation for the upgrade. Dates for the upgrade are covered elsewhere.

Budget Update

The proposed budget will be available on website. Carma will bring data to the budget meeting on Sunday. It was noted that the budget meeting must end by 1:00 to accommodate other programs.

There was a discussion on budgeting for individual initiatives. Requests should come through Social Action. There is a specific request for food justice.

Hearing Assistance

Tom reported that Bruce Wilde could not find FM headphone on Sunday.

Hunter Painting

There is a question of ownership: Do we own it, or was it lent to us? Vic remembers that it was a contested item in a will. Margaret Sellers thinks someone said we could have it on loan. Provenance is uncertain.

Send-off for Rev. Bob

There will be a send-off celebration on June 18th. There's already a cake committee. Coco WILDE and Margaret are helping out.

Extending the meeting

The Board voted to extend the meeting until 1:15.

Executive Session

The Board recessed to hold an executive session.

New Business

Unfinished Business

Animal Policy

It was noted that we are not a place of public accommodation. Carma sent out a draft of the updated policy. There was considerable discussion about allowing dogs in a food service area. Carma made a motion that the updated policy be adopted, and Joyce seconded. The policy added that animals are not allowed in the food service area.

Thank-you notes

None were identified.

Next meeting(s): June 15 at 10am

Centering: [Donn volunteered after the meeting.]

Adjournment

On a motion by Donn, seconded by Carma, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 1:15.