

UUCO Board Meeting

November 29, 2018

Attendees: Marge Holland, Walter Flaschka, Dinorah Sapp, Brittainy Westman, Eunice Benton, Sandra Moss, Dan Mattern, and Marty Fino

Board Covenant: Board members read and recommitted to the UUCO Board Covenant.

Approval Minutes from Nov. 1, 2018: Dan moved to approve minutes and Brittainy seconded the motion; it passed unanimously.

Report from Expansion Planning Committee: Marge reported that Nicholas Brown, the attorney working with the Board on this project, recently wrote an email and said that Jay Hughes (principle partner), wishes to meet with members of the planning committee to discuss how to move forward with our intention to purchase the Billy Smith property. The meeting with the attorneys will likely occur after December 10th. Walter and Eunice have prepared a letter-of-intent which they will discuss with the attorneys before sending it off to Iris, Mr. Smith's step-daughter. Marge, Walter, Dan, Eunice and Paul Goggins will attend the meeting with the attorneys. Eunice suggested that the congregation should be updated about the current standing of our efforts to purchase the property. The update will be included in the Sunday Bulletin and also during the Faithful Moment during this coming Sunday Service. Eunice and Walter will prepare the bullet points for the feedback to the congregation.

Financial Update: Sandra reported that the balance in the Mechanics Bank checking account is \$18,787.06. Revenue is about on target for where we are in the fiscal year. Dan noted that the Sunday Service budget is more than half spent but Dinorah and Eunice believe that the amount remaining would suffice to meet needs for the remainder of the year.

Discussion of UUCO Board Goals that were set at the October Board Retreat. Overview: Develop visions for a growing UUCO: Goal 1. Property Acquisition: this goal is moving along as noted above. **Goal 2.** Professional Leadership: Gail Stratton, chair of the Ministry Committee sent the following email update to the Board. "On Oct. 18, 2018, I attended a Webinar for new ministers about organizing a COSM, or "Committee on Shared Ministry" presented by the UUA. They did suggest that the model could work for a lay led congregation that was seeking to be clear about its ministry or gifts to the world. I think such a committee could be helpful to UUCO as a group apart from the board (but empowered by the board and reports to the board) that would ask "what is our ministry? And how are we doing?" And the ever-important questions, "who are we and why do we exist?" They suggested that no matter the size of the congregation that there are often 5 ministries that the congregation has. I have not yet called a meeting of the committee and may try to set a meeting for January. **Goal 3.** Complete Best Practices in areas of finances, personnel and child safety: The Child Safety policy has been updated and adopted by the Board; Marty reported that the UUCO personnel manual is nearing completion. As regards best financial best practices, Board members acknowledged the need for a review of UUCO's financial practices. Dan Mattern, the new chair of the finance committee and new Board member, was briefed as to the possible resources (e.g., UUA) for aligning UUCO policies with

industry standards for best financial practices. **Goal 4.** Make Town Halls a regularly scheduled event with increased attendance: To increase attendance, Dinorah suggested that Sunday Services could be abbreviated on the day that a Town Hall meeting is scheduled. Marge noted that some members commented that they appreciated that we had food at the last Town Hall. Walter, Brittainy and Eunice highlighted the importance of making Town Hall regular events. **Goal 5.** Develop better process for assimilating members into UUCO Activities, committees and leadership. Board members acknowledged that this goal is a work in progress; Board members shared ideas as to how we can bring more young adults to participate on committees.

Discussion of Emma Scott's request to use UUCO building for sleeping quarters: Emma Scott, a UUCO member, and a member of USAS, United Students Against Sweatshops, in an email to UUCO reported that USAS will be having a conference at the University on Feb. 21, 22 and 23, and she asked if attendees to the conference could use the UUCO building to sleep. The organization has a strong no drugs or alcohol policy. Marty suggested allowing the students to use the building but noted that since the building has a septic system that the number of students should be limited. Walter moved to let the students use the space (up to a maximum of 15) with the following conditions; a.) that they agree to the UUCO policy regarding use of the building, b.) that someone is appointed to be the liaison with Emma Scott to manage the specifics, and c.) that there has to be a congregation member here during the time that the students are using the building. Motion seconded by Brittainy; motion was passed unanimously. Brittainy agreed to be the member to stay with the group on two of the nights; Walter also agreed to be the contact person.

Monthly reports: Sunday Services. Dinorah reported that everything is under control for upcoming Sunday Services. **Communications.** Walter reported that info is getting out through the Sunday Order of Service. **Personnel Committee.** Marty said that the committee will be working on job descriptions and contracts. **Leadership Development committee.** Marge has spoken to Greg Johnson and told him that Marty will be stepping down as secretary as of June 2019. She also explored with him about other openings that will be coming open in June. **Committee for the Larger Faith:** Eunice reported that the committee did not meet this past month but will likely be meeting in January. **RE.** Brittainy Westman reported that she is starting to plan children's services for next semester. The high school RE group did not meet this month because people were out of town; the intermediate group is going strong, thanks to Mari Kuhnle.

Other Items: Greg Johnson told Marge that at 12:30 on Sunday there will be a memorial "hootenanny" for John Schuster who was a former Board member and beloved musician. Also, Eunice noted that Carlton Smith (UUA Regional) has proposed a Cluster UU Meeting to be held in Jackson on either March 23 or April 13. The general consensus of UUCO Board members was that March 23rd would be the preferred date. Marge will be letting Carlton know our preference.

The next UUCO Board meeting will be on January 31, 2019 at 6:00 PM. All congregation members are welcome to attend.