

## UUCO Board Meeting Minutes for September 11, 2017

Attending: Marge Holland, Walter Flaschka, Sandra Moss, Eunice Benton, Dinorah Sap, Michael Jenkins, Mari Kuhnle, Amy Pearson

Call to order at 6:15pm

Board Covenant: The Board Covenant was read at the beginning of the meeting.

Appointed note-taker: Walter Flaschka

Appointed process observer: Michael Jenkins

### **Minutes of Prior Board Meeting**

The first order of business was to review the minutes of the August Board meeting. Eunice moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Michael, approved by the Board.

### **Financial Report**

Sandra reported that UUCO has nearly completed its transition to Mechanics Bank away from FNB. UUCO will close its FNB checking account in November. Sandra also reported that UUCO may also face some unanticipated costs related to the air conditioner in the sanctuary. People have reported that it's not cooling as much, and that it was making strange noises during the 9/10 service. Sandra noted that non-pledge plate amounts have been lower recently, even during regular attendance. Dinorah suggested that service leaders could begin giving gentle offertory reminders in future services, to encourage donations.

### **Fundraising**

Marge discussed the football fundraising opportunities that Susie Pedigo had been investigating for the Board. This is a program by the University of Mississippi to pay organizations for gameday work: handing out flyers, cleaning sky boxes, etc. As it turns out, this program was recently outsourced to a third party company, and this company works on an individual basis rather than an organization basis. The company issues individual workers a 1099 Form for taxes, after which it's up to the individual to donate the earnings to the charity of their choice. Amy pointed out the tax implications of this system (appearing to have higher income, appearing to hold two jobs, etc.) could be problematic for many people who might otherwise volunteer. As well, the Board had one day's warning for the latest sign-up event at the public library, and the deadline for registration this year has passed.

The Board discussed the Barnes and Noble's Ignite service, which Sandra researched and presented during the August Board meeting. This is a website that enables organizations like UUCO to sell specialty or promotional items such as customized t-shirts, hoodies, water bottles, etc. However, Ignite's markup for services is steep, and its rules require a minimum number of purchases before the

items are printed and shipped. The Board tabled the discussion indefinitely.

Walter gave a report on the status of the fundraiser yard sale. Leadership of this effort is in flux, and Walter will contact the principals and see if he can learn more about the status of the effort. The project might fall back to Walter, who would then begin the planning: finding assistants, finding storage venues for the yard sale items, and making rounds to pick up donations from people.

Dinorah reviewed the “Fun Run” fundraising option. This is a 1-3k footrace that would be organized in conjunction with the Interfaith Compassion Ministry. Walter suggested trying to recruit the runners in the congregation because it might be less daunting and time consuming for them, given they may have organized or participated in such events in the past.

### **Leadership Development Committee**

During the August Board meeting, Marge was appointed to ask Kate Lechler if she would be willing to represent the Board on this committee. Kate Lechler and Jason Taylor have agreed to serve. Greg Johnson has contacted both of them.

### **The Smith property adjacent to UUCO**

A subcommittee comprised of Eunice, Marge, and past president Greg Johnson plan to meet to discuss the Smith Property. Larry Cox is the past UUCO member who was instrumental in setting up the financing of the UUCO property; he submitted a letter to Marge detailing the formation of the deal, the cost of the loan, as well as other critical information. At the time, Larry Cox suggested to then-President Daniell Mattern that rather than going to a bank, perhaps a UUCO member might prefer to earn 4% interest on such a loan. Daniell duly broadcasted the offer to the congregation and a member of the congregation happily took the opportunity, loaning the entire \$18k amount. Larry has offered to meet via Skype if necessary to discuss this history. As of today, this amount is paid back nearly in full.

### **UUCO Vigil**

Vigil at UUCO on August 20. The vigil was a success and attendees reported a wonderful experience. The organizers of the vigil were thanked, including Reverend Stratton for providing the service. Most of the attendees were from the community and not the UUCO. Sandra Moss, Jazz Brisack, Marsha Cole were featured in a picture in the Daily Mississippian, which hangs in the coffee room near the Sanctuary entrance.

**Board conference call.** A Board conference call took place on September 4, related to how members with special circumstances or needs might be able to participate with UUCO. In response, Marge has created two teams: The Resource Team and the Communications Team. The Board is exploring opportunities and it could take a while to find a resolution.

## **Religious Experience**

Mari Kuhnle submitted materials for review prior to the Board meeting. Based on research into similar programs in other UU churches, Mari created a mission statement and a lifelong learning covenant for RE. Mari also expressed that she would like to promote greater visibility on RE activities, and the Board agreed that the more people know about RE, the more they may feel called to assist its efforts. Eunice moved to approve the mission and learning covenant as presented, Michael seconded, and the motion was approved by the Board.

## **Sunday Services**

Dinorah reported getting positive feedback on the style of small group service that permits people to get together and talk. She is considering purchase of the “Small Group Packet” from the Soul Matters line for adult RE, and said it may have some use to RE.

The Board’s discussion then touched on the “Our Whole Lives” curriculum. Eunice has had experience with this curriculum and explained it’s a huge “ginormous” program that requires even the teachers to receive training. It’s for all ages, covers a gamut of information, and it needs training to do well. Based on this description it may not be right for UUCO’s current scale and resources.

Dinorah discussed the Oct 15 service, which will feature a visiting speaker who is also supported for a subsequent talk by some University of Mississippi organizations. UUCO will pay out-of-town minister consideration of \$150; the talk will be tied into “Soul Matters.”

Regarding the Blessing of the Animals, it will take place either in October or on Earth Day in April 2018. The Board discussed the Question of whether animals should be included in the service. Mari requested advanced warning of the service for RE, because it will be an intergenerational service and they will need to schedule around it.

Board discussion then shifted to the general goal that Sunday Services committee should continue trying to be intentional and strategic about rotating service leaders. When certain people who are naturally more volunteerist, voluble, or extroverted, it is easy to [a] overwork them, and [b] fall into recurring patterns for the services – both of which should be avoided.

## **Membership Committee**

Amy Pierson reports that Membership Sunday may have three, possibly four people who have decided to become members of UUCO. Membership is conducting outreach to a few others who were considering. Carla Carr, Colleen Jamison, and Anna Blessitt have felt the call and joined the committee. As well, Amy discussed the “Q&A box” (like a suggestion box but for questions about UU faith) which is being made by Anna; people can drop in questions about the UU faith, and answers will be given in the services or posted on the bulletin board.

## **Board Retreat**

This year, the Board's annual retreat is split into two parts. The second half of the retreat will take place either on Oct 1st or Nov 4th. The Chairs are to check their calendars and coordinate with Marge to find the best date.