

UUFCO Board Meeting

November 17, 2020

Location: Zoom call

Attending (via Zoom): Mark Steinberg, Daelene Schwartz, Susan Kinney, Fletcher Chamberlin, Chad Leonard, John Lawton, Ella Chatterjee, Rev. Scott Rudolph

Guests: Amy Brock, Director of RE; Larry Price, Chair SJ; and Barbara Belzer and Ginny McKee, Co-Chairs of Homeless outreach project

Called to Order: 4:00pm

Minutes written by: Ella Chatterjee, Recording Secretary

Consent Agenda

The November Board agenda was approved. Susan moved that the minutes for the October 20, 2020 Board meeting be approved, Fletcher seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Religious Exploration. Amy said things are going well even though she had to begin this new job in a situation where everything must be done virtually. She has gotten good feedback from the newsletter and has been able to help connect people to resources they need. There is a strong volunteer base that has made the programs possible. There are Soul Matters packets for youth and families that give weekly lessons. Also, the Middle Schoolers are involved in planning their program and have shown much enthusiasm

Finance Report. Fletcher said that we are a third the way through the fiscal year and already have received 56% of expected funds. Expenses are running at 20% and payroll is down a little, all of which means that expenses are currently below budget. The biggest risk is still in rental income, which remains uncertain due to the pandemic.

At the next meeting of the Finance Committee, a stewardship goal will be set.

Stewardship committee. The committee is meeting to determine the arc of the story for the stewardship video. The committee also will be meeting to get the materials ready for distribution in January.

Personnel committee. No updates from this committee.

Facilities committee. Outside units are working well keeping ice off coils.

One of the fan coil units in the sanctuary doesn't work, and probably never has worked. It will need to be decoupled from the floor unit.

There was a leak in the Buckminster Fuller room, but happily, it was easily fixed.

A control unit on snowmelt went out and must be replaced, but this is a small fix.

There will be more limited snow plowing this winter, with just enough done for day care and some additional parking.

Minister's Report. The video project for stewardship is underway and hats off to Mark Hickman who produced the first video on the choir. Work has started on the video for the worship team. All of this has to be done with safety measures to protect against Covid 19. The election caused a lot of anxiety for many people. To help cope with this, the church was open after the election and about 15 people came.

The young people's group XYZ is looking for a jump start and the Living Alone group is growing, now having 15 people.

The Homeless Outreach project collected warm coats and Rev. Scott helped with the warming shelter in a community church.

The stars and snowflakes are up and there is a lighted tree by the window so that people can see it from outside.

Membership By Law

The resolution to change the by law to encourage but not to require a pledge as a condition of membership has been discussed and approved by the finance, membership and stewardship committees. There will be two opportunities for the congregation to raise questions or discuss the proposed change and then it should be ready to present to the January meeting. It was suggested that the phrase "but retain other membership privileges and commitments" in the last sentence of the reworded by law, referring to honorary membership, be dropped. Susan moved to accept the resolution to change the by law and the proposed language with the exception of the last sentence referring to honorary membership. Fletcher seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Memorial space. Rev Scott says that the team for the memorial space, chaired by Judy Hurlburt, has established guidelines for who can place a bell on the memorial and is contemplating adding benches, landscaping and walkways. The team is also considering creating two other spaces because the bell sculpture is limited in the number of people who can be remembered there.

This raises the question of how to pay for further enhancements and spaces. Rev. Scott recommended that the Board consider using the New Home fund for this purpose. The fund was established to provide for projects that had not been done at the time the new building was completed. He thought providing for memorial spaces would be an appropriate use of the New Home fund. The Board agreed. Fletcher moved that \$1000 be used from the fund to seed the work on signage and pathways. Susan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Reach safe parking proposal. Reach, the organization that the Homeless Outreach project works with, has started a program for homeless people living out of their cars or vans, which cannot be safely parked on BLM lands or on public streets. Reach seeks donations of parking spaces, mainly in churches, for this project. Reach would do intake and daily monitoring of the parking, as well as providing a port-a-potty. Reach has initiated this project with Nativity Lutheran.

The Board was interested in this project, but felt that some investigation needed to be done before a decision could be made. We need to look at the Memorandum of Agreement that Reach has with Nativity Lutheran, check with our insurance company about whether this would be covered or would require additional premiums, and consult with the day care center and with neighbors who might be affected. Fletcher will check with the insurance. Barbara and Ginny will check with Nativity Lutheran on their MOA. And generally on their experience with the project. They will also talk with Leora about consulting the day care center.

Staffing concerns. Rev. Scott says the staff is doing well in these odd times where everyone's job is slightly different because of the pandemic. He feels, however, that more administrative help is needed. Currently, Leora does both bookkeeping (12-15 hrs) and administrative work (18 hrs). If more administrative hours were available, Rev.Scott would. have more time to put

effort into the vision for the church's future. He suggested that we consider shifting bookkeeping to a professional bookkeeper and increasing Leora's administrative hours. The Board will consider this suggestion.

On—line auction. The Board wants to consider holding an on-line auction in spring or summer to raise general funds for the church. This would be something along the lines of the Fireflies recent Jars of Joy on-line fund raiser. Ella offered to help with this, as she had some experience working on the Fireflies on-line effort.

Task force on re-opening the building. A task force is needed, which can consider what it will look like and what will be involved when re-opening becomes possible. It would also be good to come up with a new name for this group, something more inspiring than "re-opening task force."

Meeting adjourned: 6:35

Next meeting: December 15, 2020 at 4:00PM