

UUFCO Board Meeting

December 15, 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: Linda Johnson, Ginny McKee, and Barbara Belzer

Called to Order: 4:00pm

Minutes written by: Ella Chatterjee, Recording Secretary

Consent Agenda

The December Board agenda was approved. Daelene moved that the corrected minutes for the November 17, 2020 Board meeting be approved, Fletcher seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Finance Report. Mark, Susan, Daelene and Fletcher met with the Finance Committee to consider a goal for the upcoming stewardship campaign. Last year's goal was \$400,000 and the campaign surpassed that goal. In determining the recommendation for this year's goal, the committee took into account the possible effect of the pandemic both on the current ability of members to make pledges as well as the fact that there are likely to be fewer new members in this situation. They wanted to make a recommendation that was both reasonable and aspirational. The committee decided that a goal of \$440,000 met those requirements. It is only \$2000 more than the total pledges received during last year's campaign. Further, if we reach that goal we should be able to keep up with inflation in wages for the staff, increase the budget for Social Justice programs, and possibly increase the budget for the Stewardship Committee and for additional administrative support. Finally, reaching the goal would put us close to a no deficit budget.

Fletcher moved to set the goal for the stewardship campaign at \$440,000. Chad seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Fletcher also reported that 60% of pledges have already been received. Our financial state is good with expenses running only to 52% of the budget. This is, of course, partly because the building remains closed.

Matters to be considered are whether the accounting can be outsourced to give Leora more time for administrative matters. It may not be possible to do it this year, but it is a serious consideration.

A question has also arisen in the Finance Committee about whether the Fireflies program should be allowed to carry over unused funds from one year to the next. This has been allowed for the past year, but is generally not the policy for groups raising funds during the year. Because of nature of the Fireflies program, it may be wise to consider whether it should become a separate nonprofit organization.

Stewardship committee. Everything is well on track for the launch of the stewardship campaign. The language for all letters, pledge cards and the like has been completed and the Stewardship video is being produced on Friday.

Personnel committee. No updates from this committee.

Facilities committee. It turned out that the problem with the controller for the snow melt was far more expensive than anticipated. It will cost \$6500 and the committee has decided to hold off on that expense for now and revisit it at a later time.

Endowment Committee. There are no updates for this committee. It will be having its next quarterly meeting in January.

Minister's Report. Rev. Scott continues to have concern for how he uses his time. He is happy to report that the Memorial Space group now has a solid foundation and he no longer needs to be at meetings. He now is just available for consultation.

There have been conversations with the child care center concerning the Reach Safe Parking Project. Because the center is present on the property, any crisis arising from the project would fall on it. Accordingly, the center has raised some hard questions.

Rev. Scott pointed out that no matter what the end result is, the way this project came about is a good model for how church works. The Homeless outreach group had discussions with Reach, fashioned a program, and presented the program to the Social Justice Steering Committee. The project then was presented to the Board as a fully developed plan. We should celebrate the victory of this process even if the project does not come to fruition.

The Worship team video is going forward, but it is taking a considerable amount of time. The next video will be on Social Justice.

The Social Justice Steering Committee is meeting to set up guidelines and further define its role. The Wednesday evening service is continuing and has been attended by more people.

Holiday activities are being planned: Winter Solstice celebration, cookie making and Christmas Eve service. The church will be open from 10-6 tomorrow for sanctuary. This is a way for the congregation to have access to the building for quiet time.

The group dealing with diversity, race, inclusion, disability, LGB is working independently. It is considering another program similar to the 21 challenge in July, but perhaps less intense and more sustainable.

The staff has been looking at copyright. Issues, mostly concerning licensing for use of hymns and the like. There is a concern that artists are being paid properly for the use of their work.

Reach Safe Parking Project. Ginny McKee and Barbara Belzer joined the meeting to report on the status of conversations with the child care center. They said that the child care center seems to have set very stringent requirements, such as searching cars. They are waiting to get the list of their requirements, which they will evaluate with the Reach director. They think it is likely that Reach will not be able to agree with these requirements.

They have also been discussing the possibility of using our kitchen for a soup kitchen in coordination with Peacekeepers. Jonathan is being consulted on this issue.

Congregational meeting. The meeting is scheduled for January 24, to be held after the service. Rev. Scott will do the chalice lighting, but no other speaking.

Fletcher will give an update on the finances. Items for voting will be the change to the by-law and nominees for committees.

Covid 19 Task Force Three people have agreed to be on the task force: Tom Machala, Susan Kinney, and Erika Beard-Irvine. All three have experience with medical care. There should be 5 to 7 people. Discussions on guidelines are underway.

Auction. Mark, Daelene. Susan and Ella will work on putting on a virtual auction to raise general funds. The auction will likely be in late April. Anything that can be raised from this will be good, because the budget did not include the auction as a source of income for this year.

Two proposals. 1. Annis Henson has requested that members be allowed to walk in the church at times when it is too icy to walk outdoors. This raises questions about whether staff could be used to open the building and be there during its use, how sanitation would be maintained what size group would be allowed to maintain social distance. The Board felt that these questions needed to be explored as well as finding what the level of interest was in this proposal.

2. Donna Dobkins, a skilled gardener, proposed the building a greenhouse on the property to grow food for those in need. The Board thought that this was an interesting idea that should be pursued first with the Social Justice Steering Committee. It was suggested that the new members on the steering committee, Marty Rudolph and Max Merrill, could help nurture the development of new ideas like this.

Meeting adjourned: 5:50

Next meeting: January 19, 2021 at 4:00PM