

UUFCO Board Meeting
June 15, 2023
Location: Conference Room, UUFCO

Attending: Laura Voisinet, John McKee, Daelene Schwartz via Zoom, Fletcher Chamberlin, Grace Kennedy, Robert Hedeem and Ella Chatterjee

Guest attendees: Susan Kinney

Called to Order: 4:10pm

Minutes written by: Ella Chatterjee, Recording Secretary

Consent Agenda. John moved to accept the agenda for the June Board meeting and to approve the May 2023 minutes. Grace seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Finance. The committee is continuing a review of policies and is close to finishing this effort. Emails have been sent to those who haven't paid over half of their pledges. Some \$21,000 remains outstanding.

At present, there is a negative forecast of \$10,000, after absorbing \$12,000 for heating and \$4000. The committee recommends covering this loss from the operating reserve.

Fletcher moved to adopt a resolution to change the names on the credit card to reflect changes on the Board. Grace seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Personnel. Jonathan Beil is leaving as Event Manager on June 25. Shanda Johnson will take up the position after Jonathan leaves.

Facilities. Nothing new to report.

Endowment. Nothing new to report.

Leadership Development Committee's Big Reveal. LDC held a luncheon to give the history of how the "big reveal" —Our love impacts lives— was reached and to discuss how to use it in work going forward. The program was well received by the some 35 people who attended.

Solar project. The project is moving forward with first payment of 30%. The Board felt that some thought should be given to how to thank Anastacia Compton, whose untiring efforts made the project possible.

Flag day. Fletcher raised the question of whether the church should consider flying the US flag on the 4th of July and/or at other times, as part of a movement to take back the flag, to not let it be monopolized as a symbol by right wing conservatives. The Board felt that this was a ministerial decision that should be discussed when Rev. Scott returns from sabbatical.

Stewardship and the major donor event. In past years, a major donor event was held as the kickoff for the Stewardship campaign. There was an off-site dinner for usually around 20 people. Then with a growing congregation, the practice fell out of use. The idea of a major donor event came up again after the pandemic, when people really stepped up with pledges during a time when services could be held only virtually. Donors who had pledged \$3000 or more were invited to an off-site event.

When the question of an event came up after this year's Stewardship campaign, it was noted that there are quite a few more donors pledging more than \$3000. It might be necessary to have two events because a personal residence where the event was held last year might not be able to accommodate the larger number. A question was also raised as to whether an amount higher than \$3000 should be used to determine major donor status. There was also a question of whether such an event should be held every year.

These questions gave rise to other concerns. The determination of who qualifies as a major donor is somewhat arbitrary—why \$3000 and why consider raising the amount simply because more people are pledging the determining amount.

The designation of major donor may also have an elitist aspect to it, as it tends to focus on the wealthier members of the congregation, for whom a pledge of \$3000 or more is comparatively easier than for less wealthy members.

It was noted that many nonprofits hold events thanking large donors and UUFCO as a nonprofit organization could follow that tradition. UUFCO differs from other nonprofits, however, because it is first a spiritual home for its members. So possibly other concerns should be considered when deciding whether to single out major donors for recognition.

These issues gave rise to a wider concern about thanking those who give in various ways to the life of the congregation. A good example of giving thanks was the service where those who had helped with the facilities and grounds were asked to come forward and were recognized for the work they had done. The Board felt we need to find more ways like that to let members know their contributions are genuinely appreciated.

Finally, the Board agreed not to hold a major donor event this year. The question should be raised with Rev. Scott when he returns from sabbatical.

Sabbatical task force report. The homeless outreach team has asked whether UUFCO can make a statement about the proposed restrictions on camping in Bend.

Safe Parking requested to add to the numbers using UUFCO's parking lot. Leora said that we could not increase the numbers now, because the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the project provided for only 2 vehicles. Adding more could possibly be considered at a later time.

The task force has run into some difficulties with the RE program. Amy will not be present at services this summer. There are no plans for the children other than to be in the sanctuary during services. This has presented some problems because the children are sometimes noisy and some congregants have asked parents to keep them quiet. This has placed the task force in the position of having to negotiate between congregants who want to be able to hear the service better and parents who are distressed that others are shushing their children.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15.

The Board went into executive session.

Next meeting: Board retreat in July