

UUFBR Board Meeting January 24, 2025
Minutes

7:03 Gathering: After a Chalice Lighting /Opening Words (Rajeev), we checked in. Vibe-checker (Carole), Time-minder (Patrick)

7:11 Rajeev called the meeting to order. With 8 trustees present, there is a quorum. Guests came on later.

Trustees Present: Copresidents Rajeev Arora and Claire Smith, VP/Facilities Patrick Larson, Treasurer Bill Jensen, Secretary Judy Keiser, Carole Stephens, Howard Prentice, Lynn Smith

Guests: Jacquie Velasquez, Mitch Major (came on during Reports)

Approval of Minutes of previous meeting (12/19/24): After a discussion of revisions to budget numbers, minutes were approved as submitted.

Reports

1. Administrative Reports/Action items

- a. Treasurer: Gave corrections to December numbers: Budget is \$288,056. Need to raise \$197k, \$120k more than last year. Minister is \$115k including benefits.

Report:

- As of December 31, there was more income than expenses. Cash increased by \$20k. Pre-hiring Rev Edith, we had a surplus. With her onboard, we will probably break even through EOFY.
- Stewardship Campaign needs to raise enough money to meet the budget. We raised our recommended pledge percentages to 3, 5 and 10% for over \$100k income. So far, 2 weeks in, all have received pledge package, only 11 have returned pledges. Comparison to 2024: pledges were higher this year from the same people.
- Question was raised about funding the special social justice needs of the moment. Discussion: We budgeted 12k for social justice. Could shift some funds to contingency fund for social justice. Outreach is funded by Endowment. Note was made of requests by Brenda Smith to fully fund UUA dues (we budgeted \$12k this year and \$15k for next year) and continue to pay the endowment loan.

Bill will check what amount UUA wants as dues. Suggestion to note full dues and explain why we can't meet it. Dues of \$15k are based on certification info we submit. Certification is due next week. Howard will work with Sharon Drew and Ruth re: membership numbers, child count, attendance. It was noted that member count also affects delegate numbers to General Assembly. Our recent use of UUA resources in connection with our ministerial search was noted. Conclusion: can't make decisions until stewardship campaign ends, when we know what funds we have.

- Question was raised whether Bd approved the true budget numbers in December, with a possibility that we didn't. Board agreement that correct budget total is \$288,056.

b. Finance Committee: no report

c. VP-Facilities:

Painting: In November we chose painter for main building. Consensus to hire same one for RE bldg. Issue with doors: people affix signs with tape that pulls finish off. Choice: include sand and painting doors or refinishing them? Preliminary discussion about variety of quotes, ways to prevent tape use with sign holders, uncertainty about durability of each choice, ease of touching up paint if/when tape is used, high cost (\$2000) for replacing fire rated doors instead of either refinishing or painting. Motion made by Howard, seconded by Claire, to sand and paint and let Wicked Pissah do whole job for \$15,404. Further discussion: what message does congregation get by us going cheap when we cry poor? Can use Capital campaign funds for this project (\$144k is left). **Motion passed** with 1 opposed.

Replacement of 8ft tables: proposal to replace all 8 with 6ft tables, which are lighter, easier to carry, sufficient for groups expected (less than 120), safer than old tables with sharp edges. Patrick does not need Board approval for amount to be spent, but would like consensus. Consensus of approval to replace 8ft tables. Courtney made a separate request to replace card tables with round tables of the same diameter, which Patrick will address separately.

d. Sharex no report

Old Business

1. Endowment Committee request to approve forgiveness of UUFBR loan to congregation: Mitch gave background. Requests that Board do joint presentation at congregational meeting about current loan history of 2 years of forgiveness of

payments voted at congregational meetings, memo by Sandy of rationale for cancellation of loan. Note that congregational meeting agenda should be corrected to reflect joint recommendation of trustees and Endowment Committee for congregation to vote to forgive loan. Discussion of goal (to present and approve) and strategies for prior communication, discussion, private conversations (suggestions to put article in Unicorn and weekly eblasts, hold meeting after worship service, circulate Sandy's memo). Mitch will ask her for permission to circulate. Mitch and Rajeev will discuss (ASAP and before Feb 2) other measures needed. Mitch will host discussion meeting 2 weeks before meeting – Feb 15? [actually Feb 23], with help from Bill and Howard. Further discussion of history of legacy gifts and new funds (\$160k) made through new funds purposely to avoid endowment structure. No vote taken.

2. Stewardship campaign- Bill reported that we are in a holding pattern, with 12 pledges received, waiting on 60-70 more. He was complimented on the pledge letter and the worship service. He was asked if he needs callers, testimonials, or other help from the board and Rev Edith (all are willing). Calls should be made after Feb 1. Bill will create list of names to call. He gave Nancy Hutter script.
3. Program Committees and Groups/Action items:
 - Candlelight Concerts: Report by Jacquie about recent candlelight concert: 50/50 members/nonmembers attended, grossed \$2000, we have enough candles, upcoming concert will feature a different set of musicians, to be paid \$125 each. Primary goal is to benefit UUFBR (idea was floated to donate some proceeds to other deserving causes). Overall roles: Board approves holding concerts, and congregation to decide how to spend proceeds. Carole noted that her approval is contingent on use of proceeds.
 - Tellebration: storytelling event Adele is putting on February 8 for a small fee, open to public. Idea for future: linking donations to attractive/worthy recipients to increase size of donations.

After a 5-minute Breath Break, the Board moved on to New Business:

1. Proposal by Jennifer Ligeti to screen Gratitude Revealed film available for free only in April. Program Planning Team has chosen April 3 to show it in Sanctuary (capacity 240). Desire by Program Planning to involve trustees for information, not approval. Question for Board: offer only to congregation or open to community? Discussion: Agreement to devote next adaptive meeting to planning and reviewing process. Discussion: we seek opportunities to share with other liberal religious communities in geographical area that share our values vs. general public, all Share the Plate recipients, etc. Concerns: safety (need for security guards?)

Deportation of Episcopal bishop brings danger to UU's, attitude even at SAE that UU's are a cult and potentially Satanic), desire to avoid acting out of fear, desire to show care for those who come. Consensus: it's Ok to broaden past membership, approach other aligned groups, allow Jennifer to handle logistics and audiences.

2. Date for annual congregational meeting is March 2: need to send notice in time to provide 30 days' notice to congregation.
3. Gathering of UU Musicians Network conference: Bill will coordinate budget aspects with Marina
4. Disposal of Xmas decorations: attic is inaccessible, decorations are hard to store and bring down, we depend on a small team of aging volunteers, we have many decorations for all holidays, currently in nursery and needing to be stored properly. Proposal: dispose of most of the trees, don't set up behind choir next year. No vote taken.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00.