

**Unitarian Universalist Church of the Restoration**  
**Minutes of the monthly board meeting**  
**June 2, 2019**

**Present:** Tim Styer, Moderator (TS); Fern Culhane, Assistant Moderator (FC); Len Rieser, Treasurer (LR); Stephen Workman, Secretary (SW); Trustees Sandy Fulton (SF), Wayne Boyd (WB), and Cynthia Bradley (CB); McKinley Sims, Minister (McS).

**Guest:** Joanna Smith

**Chalice Lighting** 1:00 p.m. McS opened with a chalice lighting reflection.

**Approval of board minutes:** Minutes of the April 7, 2019 monthly meeting had been tabled (due to lack of access to the Board portal). Therefore, there was a motion, approved unanimously to adopt both the April 7 and May 5 minutes at this meeting.

**Religious Education:** Joanna Smith attended to present the RE update in person. The board had encouraged her to attend so that we could show our support and ask how we can more actively support her in her role as RE director. Her biggest need is to have an active RE Committee. Linda Pollack-Johnson and Courtney Heinicke have agreed to join the committee. All parents with children currently in the program will be invited to join. The committee does not need to be large but should have enough members to represent out diversity and to hold each other accountable. There will likely be four meetings a year.

Three projects are envisioned for next week's (June 9) RE Sunday Service: Toy cleaning, prepping a wall for a mural, and updating the RE display case in Hale Hallway. There will also be an activity in the sanctuary for those who prefer to stay in the service.

Plans for maintaining momentum of the RE program for the summer are to have a cadre of individuals (with proper security clearances) who can lead activities. While this will be a departure from the September-June RE format, the activities will have sufficient consistency that momentum will be maintained. Joanna will draft a handout for current families and new visitors explaining that activities will be less-structured during the summer months.

**Motion:** The board enthusiastically approved the plan for the children to create a mural on the Hale Hall stairway. Made by FC, seconded by WB, approved unanimously.

**Minister's Report:**

Church year is winding down and by all accounts, we've had a good year. In summary:

- Strong Building Your Own Theology group has been convening.
- Additional adult ed options will be considered in the Fall:
  - Reading Spiritual Texts
  - Quest for the Historical Jesus
  - New UU
  - Soul Matters Small Group for Spiritual development,
- Continued pastoral care visits and check ins (not as frequent, given some extra workload for the UUA and Restoration programming). Lay pastoral care has slowed down, but the training is now established and the infrastructure is there...we just need volunteers,
- Involvement with POWER as part of June 12th effort to achieve fair funding for public schools, McKinley attended local planning meetings to give the spiritual opening and is also connected to the Clergy pray-in at the capital,

- Scheduled to go to DC on June 12<sup>th</sup> for civil disobedience with Moral Revival and Dr. Barber and Dr. Theoharis,
- Elected VP of UUMA chapter,
- Welcoming 4 new members on Sunday June 2nd,
- RE Sunday on June 9th with some service projects happening, and doing a Juneteenth service,
- Worship theme for June is Beauty, we'll be talking about Mysticism, Universalism's history of social action, Juneteenth, and Rev. David Dubbeldam will be preaching on 6/23,
- McKinley taking July off, but will be present to help out RE volunteers for the August Sundays,
- Looking for folks to fill spots on Worship Associates, Committee on Ministry, Lay Pastoral Care Team, and a new Membership Team for next year, and
- Attended First Year Minister's Seminar in Boston and had a blast connecting with colleagues and focusing on 8th Principle work in our ministry settings.

#### **PROPOSED ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA:**

- A Finance Committee report will be made and a motion will be put forward to move management of the endowment;
- The Nominating Committee will present a proposed slate, and a motion will be introduced accept the proposed nominees;
- The occasion will be used to give thanks and acknowledgement of all retiring board members

**Motion:** To approve the proposed agenda for the annual meeting—unanimously approved.

**Motion:** In the June 30 Sunday service, develop a way to acknowledge and celebrate the numerous activities and contributions of people who accomplish the work of this congregation (formally and behind the scenes).

#### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE:**

- Jane Hain has volunteered to have her name placed in nomination as a trustee
- Anthony Clark is considering allowing his name to be placed in nomination for a trustee
- Cynthia Bradley volunteered to be the board's representative on next year's nominating committee.

#### **Reports:**

**Treasurer's report:** At 91% of the way through the year, we are in good shape for FY 2019. A budget-vs. actual statement accompanies this report.

**Revenues.** Our revenues are at 99% of projections. Pledge payments are about on target (92%), considering our 5% "shrinkage" factor. Reminders have been sent to encourage people to fulfill their pledges by the end of June.

**Expenses.** We are under budget at about 84%, which is favorable. There are some areas in which we have over- or under-spent; most of these seem to me to be relatively insignificant. One that stands out is "Services supplies," where we went way over budget in order to buy new microphones (but we didn't have much choice about that). Also, as I've noted, building and maintenance expenses considerably exceeded our budget -- and actually more so than is apparent from the budget-vs-actual statement, because we covered some expenses from the contingency fund and some other smaller "pots" in savings. I'm happy to talk about these or any other line items that interest folks when we meet.

A proposed budget for FY 2020 was developed with help from the Board and was adopted, with a minor amendment reducing the amount of endowment income that we will take next year, on 5/12/19.

People asked some good questions at the budget meeting, especially regarding (1) the proposal to use up to \$15,000 of our operating surplus, if needed, to close a gap in next year's budget, and (2) the issue of whether we need to take income from the endowment rather than allow it to grow along with the principal.

The best way to approach these questions, may be to look at the overall financial position of UUCR, rather than simple year-to-year revenues and expenses. A first crack at that indicates, among other things, that our financial position (even excluding the endowment) has improved significantly over the past several years. Here are approximations of our (unaudited) assets minus liabilities at several points in time:

6/30/17 (end FY 2017): \$22,600      6/30/18 (end FY 2018): \$60,700      As of 5/26/19: \$82,400

These figures are not 100% accurate but do follow a trend showing there was a big jump in our funds from June 2017 to June 2018, mostly due to our having budgeted for a minister but not hired one. The jump from June 2018 until now is also significant, and probably mostly due to underspending in some areas.

The Finance Committee will be asked to take a close look at these figures and (in conjunction with the board) to (1) sharing this “financial position” information with the congregation and (2) consider making proposals, e.g., to transfer some funds into the endowment or to make some needed capital expenditures that we may have been putting off, or to bank or invest these savings.

LR suggested moving toward implementing a 2% salary increase for most staff members. The consensus was to move forward with this beginning in September. The approved budget was designed to allow this.

#### **Audit:**

#### **Justice Council:**

##### 1. RECENT ACTIONS (see also Forthcoming Events)

Sandy F attended the final hearing at the L&I Board on May 7, in the challenge brought by Neighbors Against the Gas Plants. We discussed the exciting Potluck on Wednesday, April 24, at 6:30 PM, when Rabbi Michael Pollack, of “March on Harrisburg”—a charismatic nonviolent activist against money in politics and gerrymandering, who works with UUPLAN—gave an energizing talk. The next Potluck speaker, for May 29, was discussed. If Kavita G cannot come, Sandy F will furnish her DVD of Spike Lee’s *Bamboozled*.

On April 22, 6:30 PM, we discussed chapter 3 in *What Truth Sounds Like: RFK, James Baldwin, and Our Unfinished Conversation about Race in America*, by Michael Eric Dyson.

Representatives of UUCR attended the 50th anniversary revised Freedom Seder, written by Rabbi Arthur Waskow, with many excellent speakers including Rabbi Waskow and ending with the dynamic UCC founder of Moral Mondays, Rev. William Barber. This event included the imam of Masjidullah mosque and may be the first Jewish Seder ever held in a Muslim mosque.

The City Primary Candidate People’s Forum on Sunday, March 24 was attended by 1400. Anthony C. presented one of the questions, and former member Susan Windle also spoke. J, Barbara P and Elaine FC also attended. POWER’s Legislative Assembly was April 9. UUCR was represented by Bruce and Jamie Kaufman, and Kavita also joined us later. It was decided to create an ongoing Voter Engagement Team.

We have asked our congregation complete a survey related to Jubilee and any other anti-racism experience, so we have a sense of where we are as a congregation

Change for Change in April went to CAIR, the Council on America Islamic Relations. We are still discussing the donation envelopes and hoping to add “Change for Change” to them. A volunteer is needed to make sure the envelope change happens, and the best time would be when they need to be reordered.

Following up the excellent talk by Maurice Jones in March, Mike F suggested organizing a PAR recycling drive here.

We discussed whether the Council furnished any money for the March on Harrisburg lunch in Collegeville, and the general belief was that we had not.

August visit to the Smithsonian Museum of African-American History & Culture in DC. Fern C. suggested that the Justice Council approve Peter J's hard work in securing a bus company with upscale facilities and a fine safety record, and this was done unanimously.

Kavita Goyal will speak on Participatory Defense, and the possibility of becoming a Hub, at either our next meeting or perhaps the next Potluck, scheduled for May 29. If this is not possible, Sandy F will furnish her DVD of Spike Lee's anti-racist movie, *Bamboozled*.

August visit to the Smithsonian Museum of African-American History & Culture in DC on Wednesday, August 14, leaving UUCR around 6:30AM, returning from DC around 5:30PM, arriving back in Philadelphia around 8:30PM. A contribution of \$20-75 per person (suggested: \$40) is suggested

UUPLAN still needs liaison with those working for Anti-Mass Incarceration/CADBI/CAMI. Cathy M and Tim may be interested.

For next year: Jubilee in spring 2020, we decided to guarantee 2 slots, which could mean an outlay of up to \$320 from our budget next year. Congregations are encouraged to have as a goal that all members of their Board of Trustees and staff, and as many leaders and members as possible have Jubilee anti-racism training (Friday evening through Sunday afternoon) or equivalent.

Terry Williams has been notified that he will get a retrial of his first murder trial. This was very good news! The prospects are good, and he will keep us informed.

**Adjournment:** TS read a poem by Mary Oliver to reflect on his tenure as moderator. The remaining board members thanked Tim, Wayne, and Sandy for their service to the board over many years.

**A motion to adjourn was unanimous.**

**To Dos:**

McS, SW and Bob Throne to work on a plan for acknowledging the work of the church's volunteers.

Next monthly meeting: July 6, 2019.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Stephen Workman