

## Minutes of the Monthly Board Meeting via Zoom June 6, 2021

**Present:** Moderator Fern Culhane (FC); Assistant Moderator Bruce Pollack-Johnson (BPJ); Treasurer Nicole Bartle (NB); Secretary Jane Hain (JH); Trustees Leslie Ferron-Smith (LFS); Peter Johnstone (PJ); Anam Owili-Eger (AOE); Minister McKinley Sims (MS).

**Absent:** Stephen Workman (SW)

**Chalice & Gathering Words:** 1:35.

### 1. MINUTES, REPORTS AND WORKS IN PROGRESS:

- 1.1. **Minutes from May Meeting:** Minutes with small edits: NB moved to approve; Second: LFS. Minutes were approved.
- 1.2. **Minutes from Annual Budget Meeting:** Minutes with small edits: NB moved to approve; Second: LFS. Minutes were approved.
- 1.3. **Minister's Report:** The full written report is on file on the board page.
  - 1.3.1. To his knowledge, no one has come forward to learn the AV system. (Later: 3 people have come forward.)
  - 1.3.2. New Worship Associate (WA) opportunities will be offered over the summer. At the moment, there are seven WAs. Procedurally, the terms were for three years but in practice, terms have been year-to-year. Past WAs also return for guest "performances" throughout the year.
  - 1.3.3. Fellow Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association (UUMA) ministers have created full services to be used during the summer. MS has also created one to be shared. We have four lined up at the moment.
  - 1.3.4. On July 11 there will be a "covenant-sprucing" workshop with FC and BPJ to review ours.
  - 1.3.5. MS is planning to attend the March on Harrisburg on June 9 to lobby for the gift ban which PA currently doesn't have.
- 1.4. **Treasurer's Report:** NB reported that expenses were over revenues by \$7,430 but we're still ahead compared to the projected budget because of \$1,500 in additional pledges that came in and B&G expenses were all consolidated into one month. We're still on track to make the expected deposits into the endowment. Some receipts are still outstanding and should be turned in before the end of June. BPJ asked what double the average annual operating budget was for the endowment goal: \$460,000-\$470,000.
- 1.5. **General Assembly (GA) Delegates and Plans:**
  - 1.5.1. There have been no requests from the congregation to act as delegates so FC and BPJ will serve in that role as voting delegates. MS will also attend and participate in some votes.  
**Decision:** Unanimous approval of the delegates by the board.
  - 1.5.2. FC will be attending the orientation session on Wednesday.

- 1.5.3. NB would also like to attend some of the sessions as a non-voting delegate. She can attend the general sessions without paying the registration fees. FC will share this information and schedule with her.
- 1.5.4. The general sessions are free and could be broadcast on our BoxCast and Zoom. There was discussion as to whether there could be in-person viewing in the sanctuary. FC is willing to try to learn how to access the sessions on our AV system. Anyone else interested?
- 1.5.5. There will be a worship service about GA on July 18.

**1.6. Religious Exploration:**

- 1.6.1. AOE: Online RE activities will be winding down the end of June. Next Sunday's service will a virtual form of RE Sunday. NB spoke with JS and confirmed this.
- 1.6.2. JS asked whether there can be a secure space with good air filtration for the kids to meet next year.

**1.7. Building and Grounds:**

- 1.7.1. The plan is for work on the Hale bathroom to begin in about 3 weeks. The area will be sectioned off with plastic with zippers for church people to walk through. The shower, new door and automatic door opener have been ordered.
- 1.7.2. The copier and mailboxes have been moved to the hallway outside the offices. MS and the Admin Assistant will notify people of mail arriving that might be time sensitive.
- 1.7.3. Kitchenette: Cabinets should be delivered July 19 and demolition could begin the week following.  
**Decision:** The board recommended containment if the tile in the kitchenette is made of asbestos.

**1.8. Taskforce on Re-Opening:**

- 1.8.1. A meeting of the taskforce is scheduled for this coming Wednesday to discuss the latest recommendations. Larry H has been very good about keeping the taskforce up to date on the city's requirements. It was nice to attend services inside and outside but better to wait until at least fall to be hybrid. (See also, para #2.)
- 1.8.2. PJ stated that the Singles Scene would like to begin meeting again in Fellowship Hall. They are willing to clean following their activities. While most of the group enters through the main sanctuary doors, the coordinators would need to enter through Hale to turn off/on the alarm and unlock doors. There was also a suggestion that there be a combined mixer with the congregation and Singles as part of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary.  
**Decision:** While the board has no objections to Singles coming back after the bath construction is finished, we will look to the taskforce for recommendations or final decisions.

**1.9. 8<sup>th</sup> Principle Team:**

- 1.9.1. BPJ is organizing a Dinners for 8<sup>th</sup> sometime in July on a Friday evening either in Fellowship Hall or in peoples' homes. Fellowship Hall seems to be the simpler

option. The reopening taskforce should be consulted for 10-12 people to meet there. LFS offered her house or yard just in case. He will write a sign-up article in the weekly newsletter.

1.9.2. As of early today, at least 67 churches have adopted the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle.

**1.10. Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC) Evaluation:** LFS will compile what she has and send it out for review and comments.

**1.11. Justice Council:** There was a second meeting with Philadelphia representatives of National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA) with 10-11 congregation people attending. They got a very detailed feel for the different pieces of their work and how we might be helpful to them. One of which is coming up in a couple of weeks. They are hoping for a press conference before the federal house bill vote on reparations. Also, there are plans to coordinate with UUJusticePA members to lobby for or co-sponsor the vote. A community potluck may be held featuring ??????, the leader of a white ally support group, and a member from the 1990's. At least one of the people on the call will be part of a GA workshop.

**1.12. All-Church Picnic:** Jane Hu and Jim C have expressed a desire to hold an all-church picnic in their backyard June 27 or July 4. The only requirement would be the necessity to wear masks if people are indoors.

**Discussion:** Parking is a major issue and there are no sidewalks for walking after dark. Carpooling could be setup but there are then comfort level issues with multiple non-family members in cars. LFS again offered her yard and is willing to discuss the possibility with JHu.

**Decision:** MS offered a lukewarm approval depending on the date and parking. MS and LFS will talk with Jane and report back.

(Final outcome is an ice cream social on June 27 and/or July 4 as it appears in the weekly newsletter.

"Jane Hu and Jim C have offered to host an in-person get together at their place on one of these Sundays, but we need RSVPs to finalize the plans. There is a backup location if all 120 of us want to show up, so please fill out the survey below to indicate your interest and find out more details <https://forms.gle/SKwDmAWtLdBLWPQZ7>." )

## **2. COMMUNITY CHECK-IN INCLUDING THOUGHTS/REACTIONS TO MULTIPLATFORM WORSHIP**

**GATHERING:** There are no more hybrid services planned for the summer. It was noticed that people were not maintaining much distancing and few had masks. If people are not comfortable being unmasked, the church needs to adapt to people's comfort levels rather than just following the Philadelphia guidelines. One member suggested putting red/yellow/green dots on name tags to indicate the wearers' comfort level with touching/hugging etc

**3. FINAL DETAILS FOR ANNUAL MEETING ON JUNE 20:** No action was taken. The slates have been published. There will also be Tagline, Mission, Vision discussion to see if any decisions can be made.

**4. TAGLINE, MISSION, VISION:** BPJ and AOE edited the statements following the last Town Hall and presented the documents to the board. Their revisions are posted on the board page.

**Discussion:** The board's responses follow:

4.1. Mission:

There was a lot of support for replacing “restoring” with “nurturing”.

4.2. Vision:

Open to everyone paragraph: In the second bullet, there was support for “including all faith traditions as well as”, but change atheists and agnostics to “atheism and agnosticism”.

Building Beloved Community section: In the second bullet, add the word “love,” before inspiration. (We share love, inspiration, beauty and joy through music, words, movement and play.) In the fourth bullet, add the word “respecting” after the word “nurturing”. (We are a caring community, nurturing, respecting and supporting one another in facing the joys, sorrows, and concerns of living.)

4.3. Tagline:

There was support to keep the tagline as brief as possible. “Transformative” already appears in the Vision Statement. It was decided to offer a couple of options to the congregation.

There were numerous “THANK YOUs” to PJ for his dedication and years of service on the board.

## TASKS

FC ..... Learn how to set up the viewing of GA on our AV system.

FC ..... Share GA schedule with NB.

FC ..... Write an article for the next weekly newsletter inviting the congregation to attend the free GA sessions June 23 through June 26.

LFS .... Work with MS and MF to learn how to operate the AV system.

LFS .... Talk to Jane Hu about all-church picnic alternatives/options.

BPJ .... Write a newsletter article about Dinners for 8<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:05.

Next Meeting: Tentatively Sunday, July 18 at 1:30 upon availability of SW and potential new board member.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Jane L Hain, Secretary*