

UUCR Board Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2022
Virtual Zoom Meeting

In Attendance: Holly Anderson, Kathy Deligianis, Jessie Fortner, Joanne Jessen, Carol Plumlee, Mark Sheppard, Chris Topoleski, Claire Tse, Anna Wesley

Absent: Rev. Scott Alexander

Chalice Lighting and Check-In: President Holly Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm by lighting a candle and sharing a quote from John Burroughs: "The lesson which life repeats and constantly enforces is 'look under foot.' You are always nearer the divine and the true source of your power than you think. The lure of the distant and the difficult is deceptive. The great opportunity is where you are. Do not despise your own place and hour. Every place is under the stars, every place is the center of the world."

Consent Agenda: The minutes of the March 31 meeting were approved with minor editorial changes and will be posted as final.

President's Report:

Stewardship Update: The 2022-23 pledge drive is currently approaching \$350,000.

Search Committee for a Settled Minister. As of this date, five people have agreed to serve on this committee: Amy Anderson, David Okerson, Denise Kirwin, Amelia Turner, and Meagan Pitluck-Schmitt. The start date for this committee to begin its work is not certain, and may be as late as January.

Treasurer position. Meagan Pitluck-Schmitt has indicated a preference for serving on the Search Committee rather than as Church Treasurer. Therefore the Treasurer position is open. It will be broken into two positions with the second person acting as Assistant Treasurer. Holly requested help from Board members in finding candidates for these positions. Announcements will be made from the pulpit and also in the weekly e-newsletter.

Annual Fiscal Congregational Meeting will be held after the service on Sunday, May 22.

Minister's Report:

Because he was providing hospitality to our weekend pulpit guest (Rev. Barbara Wells) and her husband, Rev. Scott provided the written response below in advance of the meeting.

The HVAC installation is moving along very well, the carpenters have done a fantastic job and the sanctuary and lobby are almost back to "normal" with fresh paint in much of the sanctuary. The bulk of the work that remains is electrical, with various complications

still pending. My understanding is that we will hopefully complete the project in June/July timeframe...but we don't have a firm time-line.

Bruce and I are working to get the 2 portable "large space" air conditioners up and running in the sanctuary. We hope to have them in place by May 8.

Member Bob Howard has fallen and been hospitalized, he was anemic and received a blood transfusion...he is weak (and I assume going home today) and they have family "on the spot" and they know we are standing by.

The worship schedule/plan is completely set for all of the summer...we have good services all lined up...I will be in the pulpit twice in July and once in August...and will work remotely all summer (attending meetings, pastoral emergencies, etc.) as appropriate.

I have reached out to the Reston clergy group (they were hard to contact) and will begin regularly attending their monthly meetings for the rest of my interim here. I feel it is important to stay "in the loop" with the interfaith group and to know what their local concerns/activities are.

The staff is functioning at a high level, I have no concerns about any aspect of their work.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Kathy Deligianis reported that as of this date, the stewardship campaign has yielded \$347,116 from 137 pledging units.

Kathy walked the Board through the YTD Budget Report to be presented to the congregation at the annual Fiscal Meeting on May 29, referring as needed to the report in detail. Kathy highlighted the following information for Board discussion.

The last several years we have carried a deficit. The Finance Committee has requested that we move towards living within a balanced budget. However, even with increased giving by many members, our expenses exceed the proposed budget.

Finance and Rev. Scott are recommending a capital campaign to pay of the UUCR mortgage, which will release \$35,857 per year. The budget includes paying the mortgage until December and paying off the mortgage at that time.

The budget includes the UUA recommended COLA of 5.3% for all paid staff but with no increase in hours. In line with UUA recommendations, benefits will include medical, dental and vision coverage. Rev. Scott has turned down a salary increase for the final year of his interim ministry with our congregation.

The budget includes \$10,000 for settled minister search expenses.

UUA dues was discussed by the Board. It will be budgeted at 75% but if income allows, it will be paid at 100%. UUA will be notified of this decision.

Finance Committee is finalizing UUCR's application for 501c3 status. Once this is approved, it may save some costs in the future.

The budget does not include some wishes from the Facilities Committee, such as some replacement windows for sanctuary and a back siding issue.

Following deliberation, the Board unanimously approved the proposed budget to be presented to the congregation on May 22, 2022.

The Board expressed gratitude to others and most especially to Kathy Deligianis for all of her efforts with the budget for 2022-23.

The meeting adjourned at 9 pm.