

UUCR Board Meeting Minutes

August 25, 2022

Virtual Zoom Meeting

In Attendance: Rev. Scott Alexander, Holly Anderson, Craig Anderson, Kathy Deligianis, Jessie Fortner, Joanne Jessen, Carol Plumlee, Mark Sheppard,

Absent: Anna Wesley

Chalice Lighting and Check-In: President Holly Anderson opened the meeting at 7:00 pm by lighting the Chalice and sharing a quote from Corita Kent. "Celebration is a kind of food we all need in our lives, and each individual brings a special recipe or offering, so that together we will make a great feast. Celebration is a human need that we must not, and can not deny. It is richer and fuller when many work and then celebrate together." The opening ritual continued with reciting the Board Covenant and reviewing the Essential Board Responsibilities.

Consent Agenda

- The Board reviewed the contents of the Capital Campaign Brochure. Board members were urged to attend the Capital Campaign Gala on September 10 and to encourage attendance by all members of the congregation.

President's Report

Among the documents distributed to Board members prior to the meeting, the following were discussed and voted upon.

- Personnel Committee Charter: The charter was approved by the Board with the change of 3 to 5 members (rather than 5 to 7 as in the draft).
- Juneteenth as UUCR Holiday: The Board voted to approve this additional paid holiday for UUCR staff but asked that UUA guidelines for annual paid holidays be reviewed and presented to the Board at a later date.
- 50th Anniversary Memory Book Text: The text was reviewed and accepted by the Board with a few suggested edits.

Holly also announced:

- Craig Anderson is a new member of the UUCR Board. He is warmly welcomed!
- The need for a background check for all members.
- Ruth Grubb and Anita Lowen have volunteered for an ad hoc Art Council
- The HVAC system needs some additional work to pass Fairfax County inspection. This is being handled with the help of the contractor.
- The Kick-Off Gala for the Capital Campaign to retire the building loan will be on September 10. The Capital campaign committee is comprised of Fran Gastress, Paul Cohen, Kathy Deligianis, Judi Polizzotti and Eileen Roehr.

Settled Minister Search Committee (MSC) Update

- Randy Newton came to this meeting and reported on the progress of the MSC. He asked that the Board nominate one of its members for the three-member negotiating team. The third member could be another Board member or a member of the congregation. The Board voted to approved Craig Anderson as the Board representative to this team. He will bring suggested names of candidates from the congregation to the next board meeting for consideration.
- Randy also asked that the Board complete the questionnaire sent to all members, and also encourage members to complete it as soon as possible.
- A Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop will be offered to all members of the congregation, probably in October. It will consist of two 90 minute sessions facilitated by UUA.
- MSC has created a covenant that they will be sharing with the congregation in the near future.

Minister's Report

- Rev. Scott reported that there will be an Anti-racism even the first weekend in November. \$1,000 has been allocated \$1,000 with guest speaker Andrew Sorbo, a Connecticut teacher and historian.
- Staff have all been terrific in carrying out their engagement activities.
- Rev. Scott is planning a Fall sermon series based on the work of 20th century theologian, the Rev. Dr. James Luther Adams, who taught at Harvard for decades.

Vice President's Report

- Based on staff input and following discussion with Social Justice, we are looking at a new approach for addressing the continued vandalism of the Black Lives Matter banner. The repeated and increasing sense of confrontation that comes from the current practice of repeatedly replacing the banner only to have it vandalized again does not seem to be effective. If it is vandalized again, it will not be immediately replaced, but committees and stakeholders will look at a different approach to signage and surveillance of the area.
- VP is planning to try to hold a Leadership Council meeting next month to discuss the board's priority item of engagement, as well as ensure coordination and communication as usual.

Treasurer's Report

- Because no one has yet accepted the role of Treasurer of our congregation, the duties have been parsed out to a number of people. The search continues for a person to manage oversight of these duties.

Board Priorities

- Last December Claire Tse led the Board through a planning exercise. Three priorities were identified for 2022: 1. Settled minister search, 2. HVAC system, and 3. improved engagement. Good progress has been made in all three areas.
- Holly is going to invite Claire Tse to return and continue this planning process in September to position us for 2023.

Following a review of the Action Items generated during this meeting, board members recognized the contributions of others. The Chalice was extinguished and the meeting ended at 9 pm.

The next Board meetings are September 29 (in person at church) and October 27 (via Zoom).