

UUCS Board of Directors Meeting

Attending:

Christine Ertl
Robin LaMonte
Sharon Pierson
Lynn Cardiff
Steve Ovens
Jack Tally
Janet Stevens
Rick Davis (Ex Officio)

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

Chalice Lighting & Centering Thoughts:

The chalice was lit and centering thoughts were provided.

Visitors: Susan Farris-Gossar; Sara Pickett; Lily Walker; Joel Martin; Anna Talley

Information

Stewardship Dinner

Rick discussed the plans for the Stewardship Dinner on February 20, 2021. Rick clarified that this is a virtual meeting and not really a dinner. The invitation card was created by a number of people and they did an excellent job. As with prior stewardship gatherings, here is a need to contact people to ensure that they attend and send in their pledge. A number of people have volunteered.

Congregational Survey

Christine discussed a Congregational Survey. Christine researched who is responsible for this survey. It has been done by Janet for the Board in past years. There was a proposal for the Engagement Team, but it is not clear who should do this. Janet discussed the background of this annual effort, and that it enables members expressed their issues and concerns. The current church year is unusual because of the Covid-19 virus so there is a question about how useful this effort might be. This issue will be discussed at the February Board retreat.

Budget Status Report

Sharon provided an update on the 2021-22 budget process. Most teams have provided responses, but given the uncertainty about the upcoming year, there are not many new initiatives and most budgets will be the same as the current year. There was discussion about whether the Board should establish goals for the budget. This is such an uncertain period, goal setting may not be appropriate. There was discussion about when to have the board approve submittal of the

budget to the congregation for approval. This usually occurs in April, prior to the annual meeting.

Facilities/HVAC

Joel provided the Board with an update on the equipment replacement requirements for the HVAC systems for limited office areas within the church. This does not address facilities needs for the church facility as a whole. The Facilities Team has gotten three bids. The lowest bid for the air conditioner and furnace was approximately \$10,000. The Facilities Team would prefer that this be done before the summer. There was discussion about the long-term maintenance and replacement plans and the short-term needs especially for effective air filtration systems once the facility is reopened. The Board determined that an in-depth discussion is needed and deferred this to the February retreat. Joel will provide written documentation of the needs and costs before the meeting.

Recap of the HHV Meeting

This was a well-attended meeting with over 100 participants. Rick noted appreciation for how civil and informed the participants were. Lynn expressed concern about the timeframe, and whether the land use agreement can be finalized by May. Next steps: there should be a small group to work with the land use attorney; the land use agreement from the attorney would be taken to HHV and changes negotiated with the small group; and the draft would be reviewed and approved by the Board. The small group would include Christine, Steve and Robin. There was no agreement reached with the cost of the attorney. Janet recommended that up to \$1,000 be paid out of contingency. There was discussion about creating a "review board" to exercise oversight of the land use agreement of no more than 5 people. Christine will contact possible members of the "review board" and notify the congregation that the board has been created.

Volunteer Appreciation

At its January 2021 meeting, the Board deferred action on establishing a Volunteer Appreciation award and installing a memorial plaque on a white oak in Bateman Woods for a volunteer. The Board established a task force consisting of Rick, Janet and Lily to present a proposal at the February Board meeting. Rick reported on their work. The memorial plaque will be presented at the Stewardship Meeting. There is a proposal to present an annual "Mighty Oak" award that will recognize contributions to the congregation, and not be limited just to volunteers. Christine recommended that they work with the Art Team in designing a plaque and mighty oak artwork. There was agreement that the concept should be formalized and a policy adopted. Janet will work on this and submit the policy for Board action.

Security Committee

Steve reported on the work of the Security Committee. There was discussion about whether to have a lock on the chain securing the North Parking Lot.

Housekeeping

New agenda Items -

Add Membership Team to Regular Reports.

Thank you notes

Jo Sweeney for work on the HHV special congregational meeting.

Dennis Fisher for music at a church service.

Vickie Cunningham Roberta Robinson for putting together the card for the Stewardship Meeting.

Board Action

Proposal to Create a New Production Team

The Board considered a proposal create a new production team at its January meeting. The Worship Team requested that action be deferred to a later date when the concept was more fully developed. This proposal is now back for Board consideration. Loriann Schmidt presented the proposal. The ongoing development of on-line service created a need for a specialized group for producing the services. Sharon noted what a fabulous job this group has done in creating the on-line production. This was created from scratch when Covid-19 forced the elimination of in-person services. Christine noted that the Strategic Plan identifies a need for the creation of a Technology Team and the Production Team will probably be a part of this Team. There was discussion about whether this should happen. They are more aligned with the Worship Team.

Janet moved and it was seconded that the Board approve the creation of a Production Team. The vote was unanimous.

Regular Reports

Social Justice Team

A written report was included in the Board packet. The emphasis is on improving communication with the congregation, including increasing the number of meetings. The Team is seeking information from the congregation on what issues to focus on. Issues may include the homeless and the HHV effort, living wage and other social justice issues. The Team is working on soliciting information from the congregation on the social justice issues of concern. There was discussion about the Cordon Road cleanup that had been coordinated by this Team. The Team will address this issue. This Team was also responsible for recommending who would receive funds from "Share the Plate" and they are working on updating this

information. Rick suggested a scholarship program that Paul Wilson is involved in who might be a potential recipient.

Treasurer Report

A written report will be provided at a later date. The monthly data is generally received from the Bookkeeper too late for the Treasurer's report to be compiled and submitted for that month's Board meeting. The Board decided to ask the Treasurer to report on the data from the previous month, instead of delaying the report.

Music Report

The Music Report was included in the Board packet. There was no discussion.

LRE Report

The report was submitted during the meeting. Lily presented a summary of what was included in the report. There are now 13 children enrolled in the program. There was discussion about why attendance is growing. The reasons vary by family. The adult LRE World's Religions program has been well received. There is a plan to provide diversity training for adult LRE in the spring.

Membership Report

The report was included in the packet. They will resume "Building Sacred Grounds" this spring. The engagement Team is up and running. There are 28 people who are calling members to check in on how they are doing. People like being called and the callers like the connections.

Janet moved and it was seconded to acknowledge receipt of the regular reports. The vote was unanimous.

Consent Agenda

January 11, 2021 – Board Meeting Minutes. There were no revisions to the minutes.

Steve moved and it was seconded to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. The vote was unanimous.

Assignments and Upcoming Events

- March Chalice Lighting - Jack
- Board Retreat - February 22 @5:30
- Executive Committee - March 2 @ 4:00
- Next Board Meeting - March 8 @5:30

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

February 8, 2021