

UUFD Congregation Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2019

Present: 26 members signed in. We have a quorum.

- Updates to agenda: Added a building and facilities update; Evensong update; announcement about Gadfly papers discussion group; Discussion of UUFD history project.
- Motion to approve May 2019 minutes: **Passed.**
- Motion to approve updated agenda: **Passed.**
 - Discussion: Discussion of additions to agenda.
 - Ed Wilcox would like to note that this agenda is a slap in the face to democracy. However, he has no proposed updates or changes to the agenda.
 - Jenny Stamatakos notes that the times on the agenda are estimates only. Discussion will not be cut off if it goes longer.
- Minister's report: Rev. Allen Harden.
 - Rev. Allen has been here for about 3 months and is more mobile now after surgery.
 - So far, he has led 4 Sunday worships, several memorial service, attended meetings and other events.
- Treasurer's report: Ashley Ford
 - Ashley is doing budget tracking and payroll with training and help from Kathy Clark, Kathryn Jones and Beth Schewe.
 - 36% of fiscal year has passed. We are doing very well on pledges and pledge payments.
 - Nonpledge donations are high due to memorial donations and donations from Zen Sitting Group.
 - Professional ministry line will soon be updated to include retroactive payment of Rev. Allen's salary for the past few months.
 - In the bank we have: \$32,074 in checking; \$40,600 in savings.
 - Professional ministry line items are currently in a lump sum and will be divided when we get Rev. Allen's contract.
- President's report: Jenny Stamatakos.
 - The board has discussed "what to grow; what to let go." Many people are feeling overburdened and we are a small congregation.
 - Review of faith in action – We are already doing a lot and volunteering a lot of hours, including:
 - lay worship leaders (including tech, offering counters, social justice candles)
 - choir and music
 - coffee hour
 - greeters
 - WE pantry

- Committee leadership
 - Hope Haven meals
 - Building maintenance
 - Special collections
 - Winter markets
 - Green sanctuary
 - Pathfinder
 - Spookathon
 - Meditation groups
 - Buddhist group
 - Evensong groups
 - Ordinary Folk
 - Guest at your Table
 - Chili cookoff
 - Board of trustees
 - Website and social media
- Things to let go include:
 - Simplifying fundraising
 - Getting rid of separate Stewardship Committee and moving that to board duties
- Beth presented about Schnuck's and Facebook fundraisers and took ideas for other easy fundraisers including Good Search and Amazon Smile.
- RE Update: Sarah Thompson
 - RE has been doing a lot and still needs help.
 - Spookathon was very successful. It was free to get in the door; activities and bake sale still made over \$200.
 - Just finished "World of Wonder" curriculum.
 - Now starting UU principles curriculum.
 - We need more help for bridge builders (older kids).
 - Currently the bridge builders are serving as mentors for the younger children and do not have their own class.
 - Volunteers: It is simple! The lesson is already developed; you just have to show up.
 - Children will continue meeting in the sanctuary for the first part of the service.
 - Question from the members: How is that going for children?
 - A: Well, as long as that portion doesn't last more than 15 minutes. If it's too long, it interferes with completing RE lesson.
- Music and the Arts
 - We have hired a new pianist for 3 Sunday per month with Bonnie filling in the other Sundays.
 - We would like to keep alive the special music tradition, and Howard, Elisa, Diane, Bonnie, and Ashley are working on this.
 - If you do music, join us!
 - Elisa will be directing choir for special occasions.

- Choir will meet on Dec. 8 and for weekly rehearsals through Christmas Eve.
 - Children will be singing for Christmas Eve.
 - Join Ashley and Howard for solstice special music on Dec 22.
 - Ordinary Folk meetings are ongoing – all are welcome!
- Outreach Update: Dorothy Coleman
 - Dorothy is eager to find volunteers to help and provide guidance for Outreach and Congregational Development
 - Dorothy and Will Ireland have been doing web and social media
 - Message to committee chairs: Please look at the website. See how your committee is being portrayed. We'd like to work with you to make updates so your committee is portrayed in the way you wish.
 - Meeting coming soon – reach out to Dorothy if interested.
- Green Sanctuary: Virginia Wilcox
 - This group is part of the Social Justice Ministry
 - The group was just announced at the last congregational meeting and has been very active.
 - They've finished stage 1 of the green sanctuary process, which included organization and announcements, and connecting to UUA.
 - Now on stage 2. So far, this includes an assessment of the building, lights, insulation, and other environmental practices.
 - What the group has done:
 - Set up recycling at UUFD, especially Styrofoam recycling. Have made a trip to Dart.
 - Working on info sheet with local recycling resources.
 - Started Green Piece in worship services.
 - Did energy audit on building. Now the whole building has new LED lights.
 - Working on a good substitute for plastic water bottles in the building.
 - Upcoming social justice discussions:
 - Green Burial – Nov 24
 - Chicago Citizens' Climate Lobby – Dec 26
- Building and Facilities Update: Carey Boehmer
 - 3 solar tubes have been installed – organized and paid for by Virginia W.
 - April – replaced library furnace unit
 - Had a flood in the basement – used it as a cleanup opportunity and got a new sump pump.
 - Every 4-inch fluorescent light in building was replaced with LEDs.
 - We had a few big (and unusual) expenses this year.
 - Water filter will soon be installed for drinking water.
- Congregational Care Update
 - We need leaders. Jenny shared a note from Sharon, who is stepping down after many years of leadership on this committee.
 - We need a few people to take over her duties.

- Nominating Committee Slate: **Passed**
 - The nominating committee will include: Laura Gillberg, Ed Miguel, Eric Weyenberger, Will Ireland
- New Business
 - Evensong Update: Lon Clark
 - Collaboration with First Congregational Church
 - Has been great. 10 and 9 people at the two groups, including a few from UCC.
 - Lon is talking to Joe Gastiger about doing another group in the spring.
 - Gadfly Papers – book that created a stir at GA this year.
 - Lon will be starting a discussion group soon.
 - He has 16 copies and it is available as a \$3 ebook.
 - Historical Pamphlet discussion: Ed Miguel is interested in creating a group to review and document UUFD's history.
 - Interested people: Ed Miguel, Kathy Clark, Beau Anderson, Dorothy Coleman, Liz Hyink, Tom Stamatakos, Beth Schewe, Jack Reich, Dave Becker.
 - What would scope be? Start with founding of the church and go how far?
 - The group would like to get info from Rev. Linda.
 - Once this is made, can we have an anniversary celebration service and present to the congregation?
 - 60 year celebration in 2020? We see this as a good outreach opportunity – a chance to invite former members to come back and invite the local community.
 - Ed Miguel will coordinate the committee.
 - Jenny: shared the concept of a common book.
 - This is a blank notebook that will be left in a common area, for members to write whatever they want.
 - This is not a suggestion box! This is a place to share dreams, thought, and ideas.
- Motion to adjourn: **Passed.**

Respectfully submitted by Beth Schewe.