

UUFC Board Meeting. March 17, 2020.

Via Zoom, set up by Courtney Singer

Board members present: Bob Crowe, Dave Keller, Tom Lewis, Courtney Singer, Merrily Stover, T.W. Theodore.

Board Member absent: Danette Cordova

Also absent: Lucy Sperlin, Treasurer, through illness; Jane Quan-Bell, Admin Assistant, through travel, previously arranged.

Also present: Rev. Bryan Plude. Visitor: Pam Sachs.

The meeting was brought to order by Board President T.W. Theodore at 7:05.

Additions to the published agenda

*Bob proposed that we talk about the most important issues facing the Fellowship, specifically the stewardship drive and the auction---both vital sources of income for the Fellowship, and both impacted by the current Covid-19 virus.

*T.W. expressed concern that at the May 17 congregational meeting, final approval for the budget must be given. There may be changes in the budget depending on the results of the pledge drive. Final pledge numbers are due by March 20.

*As part of the fellowship response to Covid-19, Rev. Bryan presented a number of items for the agenda.

*Exploration of explore technical options for Sunday service, and possibilities of online giving.

*Review of the policy for renting the Fellowship. Rev. Bryan felt that someone on the Board should apologize to Margaret Swick who wanted to rent the Fellowship for two hours, and at a discount since she was a member. No one got back to her and she found another place.

Action: Tom Lewis will contact Margaret with an apology.

Action: T.W. will find a copy of our rental policy and circulate.

*Update on the Sabbatical.

*Also, on the agenda: Bob suggests a phone tree to keep in touch with the members and their needs.

T.W. suggested the Pam Sachs, a member of the Pastoral Care committee, could take the lead on that. He also saw a strong role for the minister.

Chalice Lighting (Virtual) and Reading:

Rev. Bryan read words from the UU Hymnal to start our meeting.

Fundraising Concerns

Dave reported that the pledge drive was organized around 12 liaisons who were responsible for contacting specific people. He had only heard back from two liaisons as of Monday. In his own contacts, he has learned that people's incomes are affected by Covid-19—some people do not have the work they once had, and therefore cannot give this year.

Tom suggested that all Board members pledge as soon as possible.

T.W. reported that he is a liaison and has all pledge forms from all but one person. When he has all of his pledge forms, he will scan or mail them in.

Bob encouraged everyone to take advantage of the online giving capacity of the Fellowship. Now is a good time to “sell” this feature.

TW noted that with the Sunday service online, having a plate offering that is online makes sense.

Action: Rev. Bryan will have an off-line conversation with Bob about how to do this.

Sunday Services:

Rev. Bryan: Presented different electronic options for Sunday service during this time when gatherings are discouraged. The streaming can take place from the sanctuary, or from home, as is the case for his sister in the Bay area where everyone is required to shelter at home. Technical options include:

- A) Zoom. \$17.00/month for up to 100 people.
- B) Live streaming to YouTube. It can be recorded, so folks may watch in real time or later.
 - a. Colter can provide assistance with robust screens, and split screens.
 - b. The cost is \$25/months

Courtney gave an example of successful service broadcast via Facebook Live, which is free.

Action: Bryan will set up a Zoom account tomorrow.

Action: Courtney will set up a Google Documents account for scheduling Zoom events, so they don't overlap.

Sabbatical Update:

T.W. noted that the Charge to the Sabbatical Committee had been distributed. It was moved and seconded to accept that charge. The motion carried.

Rev. Bryan reported that Sonya Sukalski has expressed interest in serving as minister during Bryan's sabbatical to begin in September. She will be interviewed by Skype, after which contract negotiations will begin. The negotiated contract will be sent to the Board for approval.

The Sabbatical committee is meeting Wednesday, March 25, to discuss interview questions. Megan Johnson is setting up the interview date.

There are questions as to whether Rev. Bryan will begin his sabbatical in May because the church and community may still be in crisis with the Covid-19 virus. It is also possible that events he was planning to attend may be cancelled.

Use Permit

Tom reported that he, T.W. and Rev. Bryan met this week with neighbors to the east, Martha and Pam. This was an opportunity to get to know them and learn about past events concerning the Fellowship and the neighborhood. The meeting went well, and Martha and Pam agreed to host a neighborhood meeting at their place. Tom's next step is to meet with Tim-Marie, who lives across the street-- when the virus scare is diminished. Once he has met with her, the plan is to hold the neighborhood meeting, before Jeff Sachs goes to the City to request changes in the use permit. Since no one would come to a neighborhood meeting with Covid-19 a threat, Tom recommends patience. The idea is to listen to ideas from neighbors and hear their grievances, before finalizing the Use Permit request.

Phone Tree

Rev. Bryan said he would be having a conference call meeting at 1:00 tomorrow with the Pastoral Care committee and would discuss the possibility of a telephone tree. The committee will also consider the needs of the number of congregants in the high-risk category. He noted the desire to broaden the base of support, primarily of younger people, at this time.

Disinfecting the Fellowship buildings

Rev. Bryon questioned whether the current cleaner was making a practice of disinfecting all doorknobs, light switches, and other items that people would touch.

Action: Tom Lewis will address the concern with the cleaner.

Call from Bob Hood and Ruby Grace Smith

Bob reported that Bob Hood had called to report that they were buying a home in Roanoke, Virginia. Also, that they wished to give a bequest to the Fellowship in Jim Goodridge's name.

Action: T.W. will be in touch with Bob Hood about the bequest, to see how open or flexible the bequest will be.

Alarm System

Tom reported that the security system is not working as well as he intended. He is contacted about twice a week with false alarms and other concerns. About 35 people have codes. Not everyone uses their code; some people loan their codes to others. It is clear that many people do not fully understand how to use the system. It was suggested that since the alarm can be armed and unarmed from a distance, that perhaps the system could be unarmed in the morning and armed at night.

Action: Tom will continue to explore ways to make the system work better.

Closing

Rev. Bryan closed the meeting with words from Wendall Berry.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Merrily Stover
Board Member