

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Chico Board Meeting

January 19, 2023

Attendance: Board: Lucy Sperlin, President, Sydney Wilde, Bob Crowe, Beverly McMillan, Dave Keller, Susan Bachlor, Courtney Singer, and Pam Sachs

Staff: Rev. Bryan Plude and Jane Quan-Bell

Visitors Angela Risdon and Rev. Sarah Schurr

1. The Board meeting was called to order at 7:11 pm by President Lucy Sperlin. Courtney singer was appointed process observer.
2. **Approval of Minutes and Committee Reports** – *Bob moved that the December 15, 2022 minutes be approved. S/Sydney; unanimously passed*
3. **Treasurer's Report** – See attached financial statements.
4. **Minister's Report** – See the monthly committee reports. The board learned that not everyone on the board has completed the sexual harassment course. Note: Sexual Harassment Training is extended until February. Bryan reported that there were about 85 people in attendance at the Christmas Eve service.
5. **Auction** – Pam reported that there are 80 items for auction. There is \$1,800 in current bids. All the auction items have a total value of \$17,500. Since there are numerous art pieces in the auction, it was suggested that there be a separate art sale for some of these art pieces.
6. **Tri-Counties Mortgage Loan and ERC** – Dave reported that the ERC tax credit was submitted to the IRS and was informed that the rebate is \$6,066. UUFC could receive this amount within 6 months to one year from now. There will be approximately \$300 in fees for the service to submit the ERC.

courtney moved that \$15,000 of the Goodridge bequest be moved to a 13-month CD that makes at least 3.5%. S/Pam. After a discussion, the motion was amended to change the dollar amount to between \$12,000 and \$18,000. The motion was unanimously passed.

7. **Use Permit** –
Bob: We have only 90 days to tell city to accept their terms and conditions under the Use Permit or challenge it. Thoughts:
 - a. have a lawyer look at it and go back to same group
 - b. Federal Religious Land Use: Law could be an important piece to litigate with.
 - c. Ignore it. Call the city's bluff on it and go back to do what we want to do.Bryan suggested hiring a lawyer or the engineering firm with former city planner on it and get help shepherding this through and noted that it needs to be done quickly. The board confirmed that this is not something to ignore and we should use professional help to resolve this problem.

Beverly moved, that Bryan be authorized to pursue and recommend hiring a professional to help us get current City Use Permit amended. S/Susan, Unanimously passed.

8. **Social Justice Committee** – The committee requested, and the Board approved that a second plate offering be made at the January 29 service. The monies collected would pay for the food being provided to Safe Space individuals on two separate occasions.
9. **New Member Orientation** – Bryan reported 4 new members joined UUFC in the last 10 days and 15 people attended the orientation.

11. Issues for Discussion/Decision

A. Website, Email and Related Problems – *Sydney moved that a task force be appointed to make recommendations to amend and enhance the website. S/Susan; unanimously passed.* Beverly and Wayne Shems will be members of the task force.

Rev. Sarah Schurr recommends a name change to the website. She noted that not only is it very difficult to find our website, but that there are theological problems with the “my” part of the name, suggesting that it might be less than legitimate, or that it is only for insiders.

B. Ministerial Transition – Rev. Sarah Schurr that the first, most important item to consider is having a good farewell to Bryan. She stated that the process for a minister search has changed. No packets are needed. Candidates will look at UUFC’s website. So, it is important that the website can be easily located and reflects who the congregation is. She also stated that there is a shortage of ministers. She outlined 3 ways to hire a minister.

1. Called – The candidate is presented to the congregation. There are about 7 people on the search committee.
2. Contract – The Board chooses the candidate and the congregation may affirms. There are about 5 people on the search committee. Search optimally should start in April but can start anytime. The contract is renewed every spring. The position is usually a two to four year appointment.
3. Interim – a 2 year full-time position appointed by the UUA It is unlikely that there are enough ministers available for us to get one.

Sarah stated that the search committee should be appointed, not made of volunteers, comprised of people that have the best interest of the whole congregation, not just their special interest.

Sarah stated that the benefits usually are pro-rated. If a half time minister is hired, then the church pays half of the benefits.

The February 5 Congregational Meeting will outline the pros and cons of the different types of ministers that could be hired. The market realities of getting a

minister will be discussed. Lucy and Dave will also present current financial position and the finances needed to pay for a minister. A farewell party for Bryan will also be discussed.

C. Finance & Stewardship – Tabled to next meeting.

D. Plan Congregational Meeting – A March 5th Congregational meeting–was scheduled to discuss the proposed Mission Statement and provide an update on the ministerial transition.

E. February E-News – Bob will write the Board Musings.

The next meeting will be February 16 at 7:00. Minutes recorded by Jane Quan-Bell.

Minutes submitted by:

Pam Sachs
Secretary