

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Chico Board Meeting

June 15, 2023

Attendance: Board: Lucy Sperlin, President, Sydney Wilde, Bob Crowe, Beverly McMillan, Susan Bachlor, courtney singer, and Pam Sachs

Absent: Jane Quan-Bell, Dave Keller

Staff: Rev. Bryan Plude

2023-2024 New Board Members: Angela Risdon, Merrily Stover

The Board meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by President Lucy Sperlin. Lucy gave opening words.

1. **Committee Reports and Approval of the Minutes** – See attached Committee Reports. The May minutes were approved as presented, Bob voted to approve, 2/courtney.
2. **Treasurer's Report** – See attached financial statements. Next month's income and expense sheet will hold all the financial information on it for year-end reporting. Everyone should look at the areas they oversee and make sure that the amounts are correct.
3. **Minister's Time** – Bryan reported that he completed exit interviews with UUA's regional representative Melissa James and our Board. Next week he is busy with General Assembly. Carolyn Dorn passed away on June 7th. She had requested a memorial here, and Bryan said he will reach out to her friends and offer to do the Memorial on Sunday 25th. If this date doesn't work, then we will have to do the Memorial without him. The UU is participating in an Interfaith Pride service at Faith Lutheran on June 28. David and Suzan will do a poem and Pam and Margaret will sing. All are invited.
4. **Contract Minister Search** – courtney reported that we interviewed 4 candidates already and interviewing one more next week.
5. **Use Permit** – Trying to hire council to help write a letter to inform the city of our legal federal rights on our property. Angela, Bob and Bryan are looking at the Pacific Justice Institute to see if it's appropriate for what we need. However, Dalton Tomich firm is under strong consideration. We will need to deposit \$3500 with Dalton Tomich, if we use them. Then we pay for their services but the last bill they take what is owed out of the \$3500 and give you back the remainder.

One lawyer they spoke to said cities are often unaware of the religious land use and institutionalized persons act (**RLUIP**). Susan B moved that the board approved \$5000 in retainer and fees of the firm Dalton Tomich to pursue the use permit issue. 2/Bev. Passed unanimously.

6. **Summer Sundays** – Angela reported that all slots are filled for the summer. We need board members to sign up to lock up afterwards, take out garbage and count offering. Pam suggested that all Board Members get an alarm code. We have two guest ministers coming, Kevin Mann and Ben Meyers. Housing has been found for

Ben's visit. We have made a circle of chairs on one side of the Sanctuary for our discussion Sundays, leaving the other side for a more formal "church service" set-up if needed.

7. **Three Churches have recently had their safes broken into on Mondays** – they are going after offerings. Is our alarm system sufficient? After some discussion, we are going to keep going as usual as the cash amount we have on hand is minimal. The other churches did not have alarm systems in place and we feel that is a good deterrent.
8. **Sexual Harassment Training** – Safe Congregations Training is needed for all Board Members and COSM member. Information will be provided to new members.
9. **Items for Discussion/Decision**
 - a. **Appointment of New Officers** –
 - i. Dave Keller: Treasurer. Sydney moved that Dave Keller be reappointed as Treasurer. 2/Bob, unanimously approved.
 - ii. Bob Crowe: Vice President. Pam moved that Bob Crowe be appointed as Vice President. Unanimously approved.
 - iii. Merrily Stover: Secretary. Pam moved that Merrily Stover be appointed as Secretary. 2/Sydney. Unanimously approved.
 - b. **Summer Work and Calendaring** – Angela proposed a meal, with conversation together before we have our retreat. Pam will do a doodle poll to get people's schedule in August. Ask who wants to host a potluck. Also, we need a new date for next month's board meeting. We will need someone to create the retreat and will discuss this further in the July meeting.
 - c. **Annual Meeting Reprise/Post-Mortum** – Lucy said that she needed to have the information that was up on the screen be in front of her (as speaker) as it was confusing to talk with changes being made to slides behind her. We suggested that she has a laptop showing the slides in front of her in the future. If slides aren't going to be edited live, a copy of the slides should suffice.

We started late, so we need to try to start earlier. Angela said it got to be a free-for-all near the end with people talking over each other and we could do a better job controlling it. Also, some people were leaving, which was distracting. In future we need to tell them it will end at 2pm.

Courtney questions whether Robert's Rules of Order really help these meetings flow. She finds it an oppressive tool, used only when people don't like what's being said. She said that we didn't completely adhere to the rules in this meeting. We need to decide whether to use them or not. Some basic rules she suggests we follow is that the person moderating should not comment on all comments made by the participants, and only one person should talk at a time. Our Parliamentarian left in the middle of the session, passing on responsibilities to another, but the Board was unaware of this. Better communication with the Parliamentarian as to their

role. Bryan noted that UUA had once attempted to drop using Roberts Rules and were challenged legally.

- d. **By-laws Task Force** – In response to the congregation's request to review By-laws, specifically the size of the board and endowment election, along with a general review: Lucy will ask David Strohmeyer and TW. Angela Risdon, Bob Crowe and Merrily Stover are willing to serve. The best size for this group is probably three members.
- e. **Annual Report Deadline** – Lucy is collecting reports. Finance and Endowment will be covered under the Treasurer's Report. Other Committees with things of note should get these in by August 15th. Courtney will write a report for Adult RE. Also needed are reports from COSM, Social Justice (Angela/Bob), Worship (Bryan), Communications, Mission/Vision task force. Courtney suggested we copy everyone and/or put it on a Google Doc.
- f. **Vision Task Force Committee** – Meg, Courtney, Angela, Sydney, TW. Sydney moved that TW run the Vision task force committee, 2/Merrily. Approved. Pam will join the task force.
- g. **Sunday Pulpit Supply** – The Worship Committee needs to find a minister to fill the pulpit from Sept-May (preferably in person but possibly via Zoom) once a month. Bryan can look through the UUA via a list-serve and see if there's someone interested. Pulpit guest item in the budget should show amount to pay for Sunday pulpit supply. Angela asked if Sydney has some names to share with Bryan. She will check. (Money left over from last year will pay for summer ministers.) The minister from Grass Valley who visited may be available (Alex). If the worship committee finds someone they like, the board has to draw up the contract (include agreed rate and negotiated mileage if they drive here). Bryan says that Melissa James can provide a draft contract for us.

E. Gift of a Fire Pit – Committee approved it. Courtney proposed we accept this gift of a fire pit. 2/Susan. Approved.

F. Reimbursement Forms: Susan Bachlor is going to put the expense report forms into Google Drive and on the member's only site of the website. It will instruct people to scan their receipts and upload them, along with the completed form and send them back to the Treasurer.

G. Process Observer - Going forward do not have long discussions unless a motion is on the table. (see full Process Observer reports on our Google Drive).

The meeting ended at 8:45 with Bryan giving closing words.

The next meeting to be determined at 7:00. Minutes recorded by Pam Sachs.

Minutes submitted by:

Pam Sachs
Secretary