

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Chico Board Meeting

August 3, 2023

Attendance: Board: Lucy Sperlin, President, Bob Crowe, Dave Keller, Susan Bachlor, Angela Risdon, and Pam Sachs

Absent: Merrily Stover

Staff: Jane Quan-Bell

The Board meeting was called to order at 6:47 pm by President Lucy Sperlin. Angela gave opening words. Dave Keller agreed to be process observer.

1. **Committee Reports and Approval of the Minutes** – See attached Committee Reports. Angela moved *that the July minutes be approved. S/Susan; passed unanimously.*
2. **Treasurer's Report** – See attached financial statements.
3. **2022-2023 Annual Report** – Lucy will send out email reminders to people responsible to write their section of the Annual Report.
4. **Minister's Contract** – The minister that we are contracting with will need approval from her company's ethics committee before signing the contract. We are not free to announce the name to the congregation until this is done. The minister will be invited to attend the Board retreat.

The minister will preach 18 Sundays, at least 9 in person. There will be at least two back-to-back Sundays that she will preach (and work with us in town throughout the week), probably in September, February, or March, and in May for the Annual Congregational Meeting.

5. **Worship Committee** – Angela and Courtney Singer are the co-chairs. They request that any ideas people have for worship should be sent to them. Scheduling for the year has begun, with some dates tentatively filled. However dates will not be finalized until we know the minister's schedule, as she will have priority for dates.
6. **Website (URL)** Bob and Pam reported that the original URL, UUChico, is working and will direct the user to the website. It was suggested that we need to inform the congregation once Dave Singer gives the go-ahead. Please note: all emails that have the domain "myuuchico.org" must be changed by Dave Singer prior to announcing the change.

Dave Keller's name appears as the sender when we receive email from the office administrator. Dave will look into it. It was suggested that all email from the office begin with "From UUFC..." until it is changed.

7. **Zoom Scheduling.** – Lucy noted the need for scheduling use of our Zoom as committees are becoming more active and will need it more to include the minister. Angela stated that it was crucial that Zoom works for worship, and also suggested that the minister might already have an account. She stated that it would cost \$120 for a UUFC account. It appears that Rev. Bryan Plude may have paid for our Zoom account, and it would be a matter of changing the ownership and payment option for the account. Dave Keller will contact UUA to change owner/payee). Pam will meet with courtney singer to come up with an easier way to use the calendar on the website, where Zoom-use scheduling may be included.

8. **Use Permit – Bob reported that** our legal team has put in significant work on the use permit issue. Angela and Bob met with Noel of Dalton & Tomich who request a narrative be written describing, in broad terms, how the current use permit is burdening the church and how it is impacting the church's mission. Angela is writing a draft narrative for review.

9. **Garden** – Bob Crowe reported on a meeting with Pamm Larry, Wayne Shems, Sue Jordan and Adrienne Edwards and members of the Local Food Network on the future of our vegetable garden. Adrienne will not manage the garden but will continue to advise on the vegetable garden. It is possible that the Local Food Network would manage the garden for community consumption and this property would be part of their mission.

Adrienne has contacted someone to fix and/or replace the irrigation system. It is estimated to cost about \$2,700. Angela requests that there be 3 proposals; one on the front of the property, one on the backyard, and one on the garden. The proposals will be discussed at the Board Retreat.

Bob will repaint the front sign this weekend.

10. **Membership Update** – David Strohmeyer provided a list of names whose status needs to be determined. He noted that the bylaws require the board to decide to change the status of a member. Lucy recommends a task force to go through the list to make recommendations.. She and David Keller volunteered to be on it.

11. **Jane will send Pam the latest membership roster without the column that designates “members/friends/newcomers” for the website.**

12. **Childcare** – Pam put an article in the E-News stating a need for a babysitter who would provide childcare on Sundays. There will be no curriculum at this point. However, during the board retreat, we will revisit this topic, as there are children we might be serving.

13. **UUA Fair Share** – Angela stated that UUA will give us a discount based on operating expenses, and she will be contacting them. Lucy noted that the goal should be to get back to “Honor Congregation” status as soon as possible.

14. **Auction** – Pam asked that the auction be planned for October 25 or 28. **Dave will set up the website for the auction and the planning will start before Pam leaves (Sept 2 – 19).**
15. **23-24 Committees** – To be discussed during the retreat.
16. **Prep for September** – To be discussed during the retreat.
17. **Board Retreat** – A potluck dinner is planned for August 18 at Susan's home. Retreat will continue at 8:45 AM on August 19 at UUFC. TW Theodore and Courtney singer will start at 9:00? with an exercise (that the entire congregation will do) to develop our Vision Statement for UUFC. Our new contract minister will join us by Zoom. A communications exercise will follow. Angela may provide a brief Myers-Briggs type exercise. **Jane will give Pam a box of cards from My Neighbor's Voice for a deep listening exercise.**

Dave will investigate lunch options. Lucy will email the Board a draft of the agenda. Pam will pick up bagels/muffins and cream cheese.

18. **Closed Session** began at 8:24 pm

The next meeting will be August 31st at 6:30. A regular meeting date for the year will be determined later. Minutes recorded by Jane Quan-Bell.

Minutes submitted by:

Pam Sachs,
Acting Secretary