

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Chico Board Meeting

April 18, 2024

Minutes

Attendance: Board: Lucy Sperlin, President; Susan Bachlor, Bob Crowe, Dave Keller, Merrily Stover
Minister: Kathryn Adams (via Zoom)
Absent: Angela Risdon, Pam Sachs

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 by President Lucy Sperlin. A quorum was determined. It was agreed that because of the small group, there would be no process observer.

Bob **moved that the Agenda be approved.** The motion was seconded and passed.
Susan **moved that the minutes of the March meeting be approved.** The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

Dave gave the **treasurer's report.** He noted Tyler needs a debit card. He will have one mailed to her. He will also order an ATM card for the Ministers Discretionary fund. A discussion followed about the advantages of having a credit card for paying workers who do not bill us, and for online expenses such as Zoom.

Action: A credit card with a suggested limit of \$2,500 will be requested.

Dave reviewed the financial reports. He was thanked for the careful comments embedded within the reports.

Minister's Report. Kathryn reported that worship services continue to be well received and the Joys and Concerns experiment continues with the plan to move into a hybrid experiment in May. The regular services for the year will conclude on June 30th, transitioning to the summer worship plan.

There have been no rites of passage requested in the community. The Caring Committee had previously discussed boundaries for the caring support offered. There wasn't a clear consensus in previous meetings. There was a beautiful discussion that Kathryn documented in the committee reports which resulted in a traffic light process - green: Agreed upon request, individual members can proceed. Yellow requests would come to the committee for discussion and are open to possible ad hoc meetings between if necessary. And the committee was clear that they would not provide chronic support for impaired people who have access to existing social services.

The lay leadership who participated in a group read and discussion of "Transforming Conflict: The Blessings of Congregational Turmoil," completed a final session. Polarity management and listening circles were processes that resonated, and the congregation is already doing some work with covenant.

Joan Shepherd is co-leading the Deep Listening training with Kathryn

on Saturday. There was a message in the e-news, Joan made announcements and invited people through personal invitation – about 6 attendees are anticipated.

The generations discussion of how technology has impacted people, people's experience and more largely our society has been scheduled for May 9th at 7pm and has been advertised in the newsletter. Kathryn will announce this on Sunday.

Lucy noted that Bob Brister had died so that a card could be sent to the family.

Action: Lucy will place a notice in the e-news of Bob's death.

Software: Bob reported that the Church Management Software Committee recommends that UUFC use One Church software. He noted that some of the processes need to be thought through. Courtney and Dave Singer have volunteered to help with the change. However, their leaving this summer should not drive the decision. Continuing members will need to understand the system. Bob explained different services offered by the company.

See additional details in the addendum below.

Bob reported that the new computer for the office has arrived. He noted that a new monitor is needed. He suggests we buy two monitors: one for the office and one for the console in the sanctuary. He is able to buy the two for around \$200. The computer itself is not yet set up. The missing part has been purchased and awaits the return of Jeff Sachs to install it.

It was noted that the IRS 990 form needs to be submitted.

Action: Lucy will pull the form. She and Dave will fill it out. Kathryn will contact fellow members in the Pacific Western Region for advice.

Search Committee: Lucy reported that the ministerial Search Committee is continuing to make progress.

Use Permit: Bob reported that the Use Permit situation is still in limbo with the City of Chico. Kelly Murphy of the City has proved accessible. The City has proposed two actions: 1) A phone or Zoom Conference call; 2) Another neighborhood meeting before reviewing our request.

Action: It was decided that a phone or Zoom conference call should be scheduled. It would take place after Angela returns from travel. Planning should be carefully done in advance.

Bob reported that the attorney we have been working with is leaving the firm. He will introduce a new attorney to our case. We owe \$246 this year. We still have \$3500 in a trust account. It was noted that we can always request legal service again should we need it. Merrily **moved that we release our attorney and request that our funds be returned from Dolton & Thomisch, Attorneys-at-Law.** The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

See Addendum below for additional detail.

Social Justice: Bob reported that there are now 6 members on the Social Justice Committee. The committee is preparing meals in members' homes and delivering the

nine meals to Everhard Village. The question was raised regarding the home kitchens and whether a commercial kitchen is required. It was noted that CHAT is overseeing the food aspect for Everhard residents.

Wayne has volunteered to deliver, in person, checks from UUFC, collected for charities.

Bob reported that the Fellowship did not receive the safety grant it had applied for. There were 1300 applicants and 193 awards given. All but four of the awards were granted to locations in Southern California.

Repairs: Bob reported that he had several "Fix-its" he would like to have done., including the front door of the sanctuary, and a worn rug in sanctuary.

Susan **moved that Bob be authorized to spend \$1,000 on current repairs.** The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Signage Policy. Dave moved that we accept the proposed signage policy as submitted by Angela. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Membership Policy: A question has arisen about how to reinstate returning members. Also, how to define a "friend." Discussion followed. Points were raised that the process for identifying friends and reinstating returning members should be simple, with few barriers. A donation of record may be sufficient to define a "friend." A donation of record -- time, talent, or treasure-- could be sufficient to return to membership.

Action: The by-laws will be revised to address the issues. David Strohmeier and Dave Keller will be on the By-Laws committee.

Emeritus Request: Lucy reported that Bryan Plude had written to request that the congregation consider him for Emeritus status. Discussion followed regarding what Emeritus entailed and the advantages for a UU minister to have that status. Giving the Emeritus status requires the vote of the congregation. Merrily **moved that the Fellowship grant Emeritus status to Bryan.** The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Annual Congregational Meeting: The Annual Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday, May 5. Dave will create the slides to keep the meeting on track. Lucy reported that there will be a vote on the covenant by the congregation. Also, she would like to honor Marla Crites as the longest-serving member of the Fellowship. Marla's name is on the first page of the membership book.

Action: Lucy will contact Marla.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Merrily Stover, Secretary, UUFC Board

Addendum:

April 23, 2024. From Bob Crowe:

I'll try to clarify what I can with a couple items:

- Our Use Permit status - with the City of Chico and our atty at Dalton•Tomich

- a. Noelle Sterrett, our atty with D•T is leaving the firm and had informed me he would hand off our case to another atty. The timing coincided with the board meeting and a Zoom call I had scheduled for Friday, April 19. (Angela could not be available).

- b. I wanted to ask the board (prior to Friday's mtg) if this could/should be our final conversation with them since our case is essentially in limbo seeing no clear path beyond investment to date. I felt it was time for us to stop the clock, pay our balance and request return of our deposit/trust funds.

- c. I summarized the city (Kelly Murphy w/Planning Dept) has communicated they want us to hold a neighborhood meeting (having already sent us an updated address list) prior to scheduling a Planning Commission hearing. Ms. Murphy also communicated she would make time available to have a phone or video conference with us. Angela and I think this is important to do and it could help clarify and define our approach to a future hearing.

[NOTE - the Zoom conversation on Friday with D•T was recorded, Dan Dalton was on the call listening, discussing and commenting as we reviewed our case with him, I closed by telling them we wanted to stop where we are, we would square up our account and requested return of our trust balance. Mr. Dalton sent me an acknowledgement of our request and a summary of his impression of our case and what future options we might consider. We can re-start the clock with D•T anytime we might choose to do so. Our balance with D•T has been paid, I forwarded the receipt to Dave and Lucy and I also forwarded a full summary of our payments to D•T and Mr. Dalton's email note.]

- The Church Software topic - my comments were directed in the main that I wasn't totally clear exactly how we have come to a conclusion possibly committing soon to major new software and with it a specific plan making sure several important pieces will work together. (I was speaking, I hope, to some general thoughts about making the commitment - not from a specific report of summary which I did not have in front of me) I'm happy to be corrected and amended - I certainly didn't intend to throw a wrench in any it for all the prior work and planning for a possible change.

Bob