

UUCB Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 9, 2022
5:00- 7:00 pm remote via Zoom Room

Board Members Present: Kathy Ann Shaw, Martha Naber, Kevin Kane, Karen Foust, Terry Cairn, Harry Grimmnitz, and Allison Foust

Absent: Catherine Emery

Guests: New Board Members Michaela Loisel, Hal Booth, Nancy Fritz, Catherine Palmer and Susan Claska Burnett

REPORTS

- Clerks Report
 - Treasurer's Report
 - Finance Committee's Report
 - COVID-19 Task Force Report
 - a. Revised Reopening Plan
 - President's Report
 - a. Welcome New Members:
 - b. Michaela
 - c. Susan
 - d. Nancy
 - e. Catherine
 - f. Hal
 - Goodbye and Bon Voyage: June 19th
 - Minister's Report
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| Goodbye to Outgoing Members |
| a. Martha |
| b. Kevin |
| c. Karen |
| d. Allison |

NEW BUSINESS

- Update to fiscal responsibilities
- Follow up to Annual Meeting
 - Discussion of Interim Search Situation
- Rental of Office in Judd House
- Chloe's Evaluation

Welcome: Kathy Ann welcomed the Board in with a Chalice Lighting about seasonal transitions and members conducted a brief check-in

Clerk's Report: Harry Grimmnitz moved to accept the Minutes of the May 12th Board Meeting. Kevin Kane seconded. All were in favor with no further discussion.

Treasurer's Report: Martha stated that there was nothing new to report from what was presented at the Annual Meeting on June 5th. She clarified that the money had not yet been transferred from the Operating account to the Rev. Carie Johnsen Social Justice Fund and that there is still uncertainty about a carry over to the next fiscal year in part because of transactions such as that which haven't been completed.

The Investment Report as presented in the Annual Report would also be the same with nothing new to report. The Church is very secure in its investments in the Ballard and the Adams Trust accounts. There

are sufficient funds in those accounts that the Church can use those funds to bridge the budget shortfall if necessary, without worrying about depleting the funds.

Hal Booth asked whether the gas and electric bills had remained the same as the previous year because the thought had been that the heat pumps would have lessened the expense. Chloe clarified that we receive separate bills for the Judd House and the Church building and that since the Church building was not used for much of the year, the Judd House used more heat than the Church.

Finance Committee Report: Harry presented highlights from the Finance Committee Report :

- The downturn in the stock market and the bond markets has had a negative impact on the Church's investments
- Fundraising and Stewardship are finishing strong
- Finance Committee agreed not to try to collect the back funds from the Judd House tenant. The tenant paid 3 months rent total.
- The Finance Committee voted unanimously to fund David Rand's \$250 tuition to attend the virtual General Assembly meeting.

COVID-19 Task Force Report – Harry Grimmnitz reported that the following changes have been made to the Covid Task Force's reopening guidelines:

- Eliminate closing the church facilities if Kennebec County is in "red"
- Combine the "Yellow" and "red" plans for 6 ft. of physical distancing
- Replaced the word "expectation" to "recommendation" with regard to incorporating specific safety measures into all UUCS gatherings.
- Revise section 20.b. regarding the Women's restroom to a limit of 3 people in the restroom irrespective of the color code.

Harry moved that the Board accept the recommendations of the Covid-19 Task Force and Martha seconded. All were in favor.

In order to accommodate time restrictions Kathy Ann Shaw recommended letting Nancy Fritz present the update to fiscal responsibilities prior to the President's report.

Update to Fiscal Responsibilities: Nancy made three recommendations to the Board:

1. Action is needed on changing signatories on several accounts. Specifically, those accounts where the Treasurer and President of the Board need to be updated to replace Martha Naber with Nancy Fritz as the Treasurer and Kathy Ann Shaw with Michaela Loisel as the new Board Chair. Nancy reported that the Minister's Discretionary Fund needs to have someone other than the Minister once Chloe has left.

Harry Grimmnitz moved to name Michaela Loisel as President, Nancy Fritz as Treasurer and Harry Grimmnitz as Chair of the Finance Committee as signatories on the Kennebec Savings accounts of which there are many. Martha seconded.

Discussion followed: Nancy recommended a friendly amendment that since there is only one Fob it should go to the Treasurer. The business-on-line bank fob shall be assigned to the Treasurer Nancy Fritz. This fob allows on-line access to all accounts held by UUCS at Kennebec Savings Bank, including the ability to view accounts and to transfer money between accounts. All were in favor.

Hal Booth questioned whether the old names should be removed from the accounts and Nancy explained that when the new cards are signed, the old names are dropped automatically.

The votes were cast and all were in favor.

2. The Minister's Discretionary Fund is held at Kennebec Savings and will need to have a new signatory.

Martha moved that there be two signatories on the Discretionary Fund: Nancy Fritz as Treasurer and Michaela Loisel as Board President until a Minister is brought in to the UUCC. Kevin Kane seconded. All were in favor.

3. As outgoing Chair of Invested Funds Nancy Fritz has access to request information about MUUSAN, the Ballard Trust, the Adams Trust, which are at the UU Common Endowment Fund, and the Rev. Carie Johnsen Social Justice Fund, which is held at the Maine Community Fund. Nancy recommended that Marilyn Dunn as new Invested Funds Chair be authorized to request information about the funds.

Terry moved to accept the recommendation and Martha seconded. All were in favor.

President's Report – Kathy Ann Shaw expressed gratitude to all new Board members and sent thoughtful personal cards to all members leaving the board. Each member opened their card and read the message out loud to the others. A special thank you to Kathy Ann Shaw for all of her hard work and diligence as President of the Board as well.

Minister's Report – Chloe Briede

Chloe reported that she has received the report from Rev. Paul for the Restorative Justice sessions and will look through them and forward them on to the Board. There has been some positive movement from the sessions with one member coming back.

Chloe was thankful for how well the Annual Meeting went.

Kathy Ann and Chloe have been meeting with people at the UUA and they have word that there are 46 retired ministers from around the region who are willing to step up and help congregations like ours that have not been able to fill the position of Minister. Chloe said that she is feeling much more optimistic about the Church finding someone to help out.

Reverend Paul's report should be shared with the congregation in some way – perhaps highlights should be gleaned and sent out. Chloe urged us to use the momentum: Who is UUCC? Where are we going? what is our mission and how are we moving into that mission? What are the next couple of years going to look like? She encouraged us not to lose track of that momentum.

In expressing her goodbyes, Chloe gave individual praises to each of the Board members. She and her presence will be missed.

New Business -

Annual Meeting went very smoothly and was a very special event. To be in person and have the ability to include people on Zoom to achieve more than was needed for a quorum in this our first in-person Annual Meeting was very much appreciated by all.

Interim Search – Joe Sullivan from the UUA has been helpful at looking at how to pull together ideas for how to proceed. The synopsis of ideas from the congregation on what we want and don't want as a church community was helpful. In general there was a negative response to having a virtual minister, there were several comments about how Monique has inspired congregants and whether she would be willing to take on a bigger role in Sunday services.

Members of the Transition Team will be having a retreat with Joe Sullivan to discuss and address the three areas of coverage needed: Pastoral, Administrative and Sunday Pulpit. Before the Board can make any recommendations regarding any increased role that the Pastoral Team may be asked to take, it was decided that we need to wait for more information on whether the UUA will be able to send anyone. We will also need to look at our priorities; what committees need Ministerial support and which can do without it. Chloe, Kathy Ann and Joe will be facilitating the meeting and will need to put together a list of priorities for the church community.

Martha commented that the Waterville church has been 5 years without a minister and wondered whether there could be some collaboration or sharing with them. It was noted that there are some people from UUCC who left the Augusta community and joined Waterville, so they may not feel particularly collaborative with us. It was also noted that Monique has no interest in providing reflections on Sundays but would be happy to be support for Committees that need it.

The Board typically takes a hiatus during the month of July but given the current situation Harry expressed concern that perhaps this year the Board should plan t meet in July.

Judd House Rental – Board members discussed whether the church community is in a position to rent space in the Judd House or whether there is a need for the space now that we are back worshipping in person. The Finance Committee had no clear decision and felt that the Board should discuss whether the needs of the Church. Since the financial expenses that were budgeted for a full-time minister will likely be significantly less the income is not needed at this time.

Harry Grimmnitz moved that the church not rent space in the Judd House and that we leave it open for potential church community needs. Martha seconded.

Further discussion led to the conclusion that with where we are at now, we ought to wait and see what the needs are. All were in favor.

Chloe's Evaluation – Kathy Ann lead a discussion about Chloe's work with the congregation and her areas of strength. The Board went through several of the questions on the form and provided comments for the different areas to be evaluated.

Martha motioned to adjourn, and Harry seconded. All were in favor.