



## Unitarian Universalist Church in Meriden

### Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2020

Present (via Zoom): Jane Dioguardi, Sandy Duffy, Randy Heath, Kathleen Lindberg, Rev. Tony Lorenzen, Trish Schneider, John Sepples, Paula Snedeker

Absent: N/A

1. Chalice Lighting and Check-in: Jane lit the chalice, and Board members checked in with each other.
2. Renewing our Covenant: Jane read the BOT covenant.
3. Consent Agenda:
  - a. Acceptance of previous BOT meeting minutes from July 21, 2020
  - b. Committee Reports (Pastoral Care, SJC, Property, Communications)

Sandy moved to accept the consent agenda items and Kathleen seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

4. Jane reported that she submitted a letter from the BOT on behalf of Nancy Burton's application for a matching grant to benefit the Social Justice Council's work with the immigrant community.
5. Discussion:
  - a. Stewardship issues: Trish shared the checklist that she and Kathleen created. Priority is to find someone to take on the responsibility of sending statements and reminders. Still need a chairperson to work with Rev. Tony, Donna Stimpson (membership chair), and finance people. Trish suggested that we send a communication to see if there is any interest in this opportunity.
  - b. BOT Priorities and Goals for FY 2020-2021: Jane has been working with Anita Sanders on bylaws changes. We need to talk with MUUS leadership about sharing an administrative assistant position; Jane will contact Denise. Absent paid staff, we'll need volunteers. Anita can update the web page, and John offered to help with social media. Main concern is the weekly emailed newsletter. Other considerations: membership (Trish checking with Donna on cloud-based directory updates), finance, pledges, answering phone, filing. Need to find out from Steven Nahas what else is involved. Decision made to retain Steven through 10/31/20 as PPP loan ends on 11/4/20.
  - c. Transition Development Team to Committee on Ministry: The Development Team was working on goals and priorities; the COM would be top-level leadership that continues this work, and could take the place of Leadership Council, with representation from both UUCM and MUUS congregations. Larger COM would deal with education, worship, religious education, social justice – the idea is to decrease the number of committee meetings and minimize the number of teams (although UUCM SJC might already be too strong). Rev. Tony isn't sure what the best thing is but right now there is "no passion in getting stuff done" – we need to see where our energy is - rebuild and re-think. Rev. Tony is involved in a plan re: how to create an organization/clearinghouse/entity that raises money, purchases shared resources, and provides information to a group of congregations so that individual congregations won't have to worry so much about finances. Possible name – "CT Congregational Co-operative". The goal is to figure out what can help support as many congregations as possible for as long as possible? One

- or two people from each board (UUCM and MUUS) would be needed to work w/ with Rev. Tony on this project.
- d. Reopening for rentals: Need to determine the costs involved in cleaning. Trish noted that in a webinar from some months ago, the insurance recommendation was that there needs to be a week in between events. Is there a new timeframe now? Discussed having events outside while we can. Trish and Kathleen to work offline re: Small Group Ministry getting together in person. In the meantime we need to communicate to rental requests that we are not opening any time soon as space is not adequate to keep people safe.
  - e. Camper in parking lot: Decided could stay for the time being as it's not in anyone's way but we can't be liable for any damages. Randy will call the neighbor to check in and ask her to keep us informed of plans.
  - f. Church clean-up: Discussed list that Trish started re: what can be discarded. We also need to maintain the building – bathrooms need to be cleaned, alarm needs battery, should we do some painting?
  - g. Fundraising matters: Discussed having auction in October. There is a recently donated 60" plasma TV in church basement. A virtual holiday cookie walk was also suggested.
6. Treasurer's Report and Financials (July): We had a positive net income for July. Trish has made two changes in the financial statements. The profit and loss statement has been streamlined by using fewer income and expense lines; and the operating budget has been divided into three classes or buckets: administrative, faith development/program, and fundraising. This will allow us to spread operating income and expenses more evenly. The biggest impact will be in Professional Ministry expense. We will move the majority of Professional Ministry to Faith Development vs. Administrative.
7. Reminder of next Meeting: Tuesday, September 1st at 7 PM via Zoom.
8. Closing words and chalice extinguish: Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paula A. Snedeker