



Unitarian Universalist Church in Meriden

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2020

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

Absent: Jane Dioguardi

1. Chalice Lighting and Check-in: John lit the chalice, and Board members checked in with each other.
2. Renewing our Covenant: Board Clerk read the BOT covenant.
3. Consent Agenda:
 - a. Acceptance of previous meeting minutes from May 5, 2020
 - b. Minister's Report dated 5/13/2020 (excluding "Board Agenda Considerations")
 - c. Joint Worship Associates Meeting 5/13/20
 - d. SJC Report for 5/19/20

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

4. Treasurer's Report and Financials (April): Our PPP loan for \$10,210 will help with payroll (for office admin and musician) and utilities, although there is a good chance we will not be forgiven for all of it because it requires that 75% be spent only on payroll. But at 1% interest it's a reasonable loan. MUUS loan is covering Rev. Tony's salary and benefits.

Paula made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and Financials; Kathleen seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Discussed difficulty of finalizing the budget because not all pledges are in yet. Rev. Tony asked Board members to call members who haven't pledged and find out their plans. Decided to move budget hearing from May 24th to May 31st to allow more time for this. Rev. Tony requested to see all pledge information; Trish will send him both her personal list and the one in Servant Keeper. Then he will let BOT members know who needs to be called (he will also assist with calls). Clerk will keep track of who is making which calls. Also need to determine if people who haven't pledged in a few years are still church members. Thank-you letters to everyone who has pledged for new FY 2020-2021 need to be sent.

5. Contribute \$150 to cost of speaker Matt Meyer on June 7th:

Rev. Tony requested that UUCM contribute \$150 to the cost of MUUS service with percussionist on June 7th. The Board had no objections.

6. Paying for vMix worship software (trial period ends on May 23rd):

The software is registered to Jeff May and he owns it, but it has to belong to the congregation in some way too. The problem is that it's a single-user system with no license, and it can't live on a church computer. While Jeff is willing to pay for half, it would be better if church could reimburse him fully. We have funds (including a donation from MUUS) that are to be used for our streaming/video activities, so Trish suggested that Jeff be partially reimbursed now with what we

have, and then we can draft an agreement and budget for the balance. Ideally each congregation should have the software and several people who know how to use it; Jeff is looking for volunteers so that he is not responsible for service every Sunday. Rev. Tony also suggested using Faithify once it's set up.

7. Special request for funds to pastoral care fund:

Rev. Tony would like to make a special appeal once the budget is situated and all 2020-2021 pledges have been made. The Board had no objections.

8. Church Building Use - for members who temporarily have nowhere to stay:

Kathleen requested that we start thinking about this issue. What would be the guidelines for letting someone stay? We would need an agreement specifying the timeframe, what would happen in case of illness, and responsibility for the expense of cleaning after they leave. Rev. Tony will ask other clergy and associates if they have a plan in place.

9. BOT and Membership Committee – Sunday Virtual Greeters and Coffee Hour Hosts:

Has been the same two or three people since we went virtual. Worship team can't organize a schedule and Donna Stimpson will soon be unavailable. Trish will be training Jane; Kathleen offered to learn as well. Trish will email her the information.

10. Discussion of items to be voted on for Annual Meeting:

- Verified Saturday June 20th as the date and 1:00 PM as the time. Meeting to be held via Zoom. Notice must be mailed at least 10 days in advance. Board Clerk will begin creating the agenda. Trish will email Steven Nahas and ask him to contact committee chairs for their reports. Trish will also email Clerk the annual meeting minutes from June 2019.
- Need to determine what the voting process is for people who can't or won't use Zoom.
- Trish was elected in 2018 so the Treasurer position is up for reelection now, as is the Finance Chair. Sandy agreed to continue as Chair if a replacement cannot be found at this time. The Board decided to suggest to the congregation that elections be postponed until later in the year; vote on this can be taken at the annual meeting. Trish suggested that the idea to postpone elections be placed in the weekly email update ahead of time so that if anyone has any objections, they can contact Jane or John before June 20th.

11. Reminder of next Meeting: Tuesday, June 2nd at 7 PM via Zoom

12. Closing words and chalice extinguish: Randy offered words of hope for the scientists working on a COVID-19 vaccine. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula A. Snedeker