



Unitarian Universalist Church in Meriden

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2021

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. Consent Agenda:
 - Acceptance of previous meeting minutes from December 15, 2020
 - Minister's Report – 12/15/20
 - Minister's report – 1/12/21

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

3. Treasurer's Report & Financials for December 2020: Monthly net operating income for December is positive. Our fundraising efforts have been very successful. Budget requests for FY22 have been sent to committees/teams. Trish and Sandy will be reviewing application for PPP loan forgiveness.

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

4. Mid-year Check-in: Who will be coming back to BOT? Jane will have served six years by the end of June so she is ineligible for another term. Randy is in his fourth year, as is Kathleen. Trish can serve one more year. Sandy has been on for multiple terms but has taken a year off in between when necessary. We need to clarify what positions are open so we can recruit. Our job as leaders right now is just to make sure the congregation survives the pandemic, and it will be difficult to recruit leaders for the time being. Is it time to restructure our organization and investigate other models? What might be other ways of doing it and involving people? Do we need a BOT for legal reasons? What should be the size of the leadership team? Right now, a congregation needs to provide stability. Once the pandemic is over, there will be growth potential and facilitation/marketing of in-person gatherings.
5. Launchpad: Meeting was held with Fred Holland. The cost to create website (\$500) can be spread out over two budgets. Discussed concerns over monthly maintenance cost and newsletter expense (\$15/hour for minimum of five hours per week). Trish believes we can maintain the website internally; her daughter may be able to help. Major issue for newsletter is finding/coordinating content. Jane suggested a separate discussion that would result in a recommendation to full board.
6. Appointing a Stewardship Team: Jane will send communication to "everybody" email list. Discussed what the team should do: right now focus on pledging, getting the pledge, and reminding members of their pledge commitments. Trish noted that of the approximately 40+ households that have pledged, about four have not begun paying; however, it's not the treasurer's role to send out reminder letters. Rev. Tony suggested that maybe the BOT needs to

take on the role of steward and recommended the board send the letters. Jane and Kathleen will work on this; Trish will provide them with information on what the process has been in the past.

7. UUA Certification: Trish has contacted Donna Stimpson to review re: who is really inactive? Jane requested a copy of the membership list from Servant Keeper.
8. Facilities:
 - Roof leak: Randy has reviewed quotes (\$18K – \$25K) and expects no assistance from insurance company. In order to apply for a home equity line of credit, we need to first have PPP loan forgiveness.
 - Furnace: Repair is complete.
 - Door leading into lower level (basement): Randy removed the automatic closer and will look into repairing.
 - Request to park camper: No action needed at this time.
 - Health Dept. Inspection: Sandy will check church answering machine for message about setting up an appointment.
 - Alarm system: Existing system will run a fire code. Trish suggested that for now we find out the cost of a new system (especially since building is vacant).
9. Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 7 PM via Zoom. Topic will be finalizing what it means to be a member of this congregation.
10. Closing words and chalice extinguishing: Meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula A. Snedeker