

**UU Church in Meriden
Leadership Team/Board Minutes
September 22, 2021**

Present: Nancy Burton, Janet Hiller, Trish Schneider, Rev. Tony Lorenzen
Check-In

The **minutes of the Sept. 8 meeting were approved** by consensus.

Treasurer's report:

- Expenses for each month are about \$7,000; income doesn't always cover them, as it comes in sporadically.
- Need to reduce lawn care expense for next fiscal year. Nancy will speak with Randy Heath and Donna Stimpson (Property committee).
- The report was accepted unanimously.

Fundraising:

- Holiday Fair. Nancy will ask Diane Szymaszek to be a point person for this. Trish will also be one.
- Nancy will write an email asking for help with the Fair and note that without help, UUCM's income for the fiscal year will be jeopardized.
- Nancy will also write an email for later distribution re: the sustainability of UUCM.
- Holiday Donation Request will be tied to Giving Tuesday. Rev. Tony will create a video.
- Trish will look into getting UUCM certified as a charity on Facebook.
- Quadrennial Report for the City assessor: We don't know whether we'll have to pay any taxes.
- October 17, 2021 potluck and conversation:
 - Rev. Tony will lead a conversation re: congregants' hopes and fears.
 - Second focus: the sustainability of the church. Need individuals to help with fundraising.
 - Trish will list ways congregants can help; she'll have a signup sheet available.
- Rev. Tony is keeping a list of possible discussion topics for the potlucks and other occasions.
- Rev. Tony will send a thank you to Colleen Yarnot for her donation to the Pastoral Care Fund.
- Out-of-the-box idea: Ask congregants to fund a month's lawn care or utilities or another expense for next FY's budgeting. This can go into the spring letter to the congregation.

SJC fundraising dance:

- Proceeds: \$708. Additional donations are anticipated.
- Nancy will post a report for SJC on the announcements update.

Faithify request for portable sound system:

- Pledged so far: \$1437 plus a check for \$100. Over 50% of donors are connected to UUCM; 22%, not.
- Will add hearing-assistance devices to a stretch request.

Policy on meeting indoors or outdoors:

- Outdoors until weather doesn't permit, then indoors with masks and distancing.
- Nancy will send an updated notice to the announcements re: the above.
- Nancy will ask Jeff May to post weather-related changes on Facebook, the website, and in an email.

- Rev. Tony will re-send us the template for weather cancellations.
- Neighbor complaint about noise at the dance was left on voice mail. Suggestion that we phone her. Next time, send postcard to near neighbors alerting them about—and inviting them to—the event.

Policy on residency in the church:

- We should be fine for short-term stays, e.g., a weekend.
- Rev. Tony will find a draft policy for residency.

Jane Dioguardi's medical leave:

- Elaine Donovan has volunteered to help with office work.

Communications:

- Trish will ask Steven Nahas about managing our Facebook page to get a better mix of items posted.

Joint meeting of UUCM and MUUS Boards to discuss book, *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going*. Nancy will send out a Doodle poll for a Nov. meeting date. We'll meet at Rev. Tony's.

One-on-One Calls:

- Rev. Tony will convert the info gleaned into a video presentation for the November potluck.
- One member's observation that UUCM be more of a bridge to non-UUs led to brainstorming about ways to do that: Eat, Talk, Pray dinner gathering with a speaker followed by discussion. Mention this idea in the Oct. 17 potluck conversation.
- We need to make a progress report to the congregation AND put notes into the member database.

Covenant:

- The re-covenanting document signed by attendees on Sunday Sept. 4 will be displayed each Sunday through Oct. 17 for others to sign.
- Rev. Tony will send out an announcement about this.

Tasks:

- Nancy will speak with Randy Heath and Donna Stimpson re: reducing lawn care cost for next FY.
- Nancy will ask Diane Szymaszek if she'll be a point person on the Holiday Fair.
- Nancy will write an email urging congregants to sign up to help with the Fair. Rev. Tony will create a video for the Holiday Donation/Giving Tuesday fundraiser.
- Trish will check into getting UUCM certified as a charity with Facebook.
- Trish will list some ways congregants can help, and circulate a signup sheet at potluck Oct. 17.
- Rev. Tony will send a thank you to Colleen Yarnot for her donation to the Pastoral Care Fund.
- Trish will ask Steven Nahas about managing our Facebook page to get a better mix of items posted.
- Trish will give Elaine Donovan a list of tasks Jane has been doing.
- Nancy will send out a Doodle Poll to determine a date for the joint board conversation about the book, *How to Lead...*
- Rev. Tony will convert the one-on-one calls report into a video.
- Nancy will send a report on the SJC fundraiser dance to the Thursday announcements.

- Nancy will send a notice to the announcements re: indoor-outdoor policy.
- Nancy will ask Jeff May to post weather-related changes on Facebook, the website, and in an email.
- Rev. Tony will re-send us the template on weather cancellations.
- Rev. Tony will find a draft policy for residency in the church.
- Rev. Tony will send an announcement re: signing the re-covenanting document.

The **meeting adjourned at 1:50pm**. Next meeting: **Wed. Oct. 6 at 4:30pm at the church**.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Hiller