

**Unitarian Universalist Church in Meriden
Leadership Team / Board
Minutes November 10, 2021**

The meeting was held via Zoom at 6:30pm.

Present: Nancy Burton, Janet Hiller, Trish Schneider, Rev. Tony Lorenzen. **Members** (for part of the meeting): Sandy Duffy, Jeff May

Check-In.

The **minutes of October 27, 2021** were approved by consensus.

Treasurer's report(s):

(Note that this LT / Board meeting precedes the Finance Committee meeting by one day.)

- Holiday Appeal matching fund has secured one donor at \$100. Rev. Tony will send a thank you.
- A letter about this matching fund will be sent by Giving Tuesday, Nov. 30 to the congregation.
- Rev. Tony, Nancy, Trish, and Janet will make a short video asking for a holiday gift to the church.
- The fact that a couple of large pledges are paid in full shouldn't negatively affect our cash flow later in the FY: Trish.
- Most pledges are on target; two or three are "slightly off": Trish.
- The fundraising goal of \$20,000 is daunting. Planning is well under way for the Holiday Fair, set for Dec. 4.
- The report was accepted unanimously, pending any problems discovered by the Finance Committee tomorrow.

Minister's report:

- Rev. Tony has offered to do an extra service in 2022 to compensate for his absence (illness) of Nov. 7. Nancy said that a sick day is entirely permissible and no make-up Sunday is necessary. Rev. Tony will keep that in mind but thinks his presence is important.
- Serendipitously, the potluck conversation of Nov. 7 was on the same topic as had been planned for the Feb. 2020 service, which we re-ran on the 7th.
- In the following sentence from the report, the word not was omitted. The sentence should read: "I think the worship scheduling is getting better and I get the sense people are NOT rioting in protest against the services that happen when I am not there, and I think that's a good thing."
- The report was approved unanimously.

Nov. 7 potluck conversation:

- Members are engaged: "They're in it with us."
- Comments by members suggest that any of the church models presented are OK because we already use parts of all of them.
- Any type of partnership will have to "mesh with our (congregational) soul." It won't work if that isn't in place.
- Jeff: There's a lot for the congregation to digest. Coming out of the pandemic, we're not going back to the old ways. This is the first time they've had to think about [joining with another congregation]. This is why they want to read and study Sunday's Power Point presentation.
- Nancy: Someone suggested forming a consortium of small congregations to share resources.

- Rev. Tony: Emphasize that we're going to be in discussion/dialog for the rest of the FY.

Conversation with Rev. Joanna Crawford and some other observations:

- Rev. Tony will talk with Rev. Carolyn Patierno of New London and with other CT UU ministers.
- Possible cluster among Meriden, New London, Manchester, Madison.
- Our focus must be inviting and exciting, narrow, and focused on the soul of the congregation.
- Revisit our Mission and Vision later.

Dec. 5 Potluck and Conversation:

- Have activities that focus on the soul of the congregation, which Rev. Tony will devise and lead.
- We need to inform the congregation that this will be the topic on Dec. 5th. Rev. Tony will send out a message.
- We could ask basic questions on Facebook before Dec. 5th to get members thinking.
- Rev. Tony will send his Nov. 7 Power Point to the website. It will appear under Members as Congregational Conversation Resources. (PW: UUCMfuture) It will also go to the newsletter.
- This new resource will be shown on the TV screen this Sunday, and the congregation will be given instructions in how to access it. (Didn't happen.) We could put the LT's notes on this site also.

Communications:

- Will put out a request for someone to maintain our social media platforms, the website, and the newsletter.
- Hannah Berg has been researching a plan for modernizing our communications. Nancy will invite her to our January meeting to make a presentation on what she's learned.

Policy on closing for inclement weather and other occasions:

- Nancy will write this up and send to the LT: Decision will be made by a member of the Worship Committee, a member of the LT, and the minister if participating that Sunday. To be posted to all our social media and the website.

Concerns:

- Trish and Nancy were dismayed by the lack of volunteers on Nov. 7 to set up for the potluck and to do cleanup after coffee hour and the lunch. Nancy will send a note to the newsletter (to LT first). She will speak to Steve Volpini re: lack of set-up for the potluck.

Campaign to fund a new roof:

- Not a campaign to pay off the mortgage.
- Finance plans to start looking into this, too, in January.
- Could use Faithify for part of the funds. Also the UUA for a loan.

Discussion re: member of the month for recognition in the newsletter.

Nov. 21st worship at MUUS:

Janet will ask Worship to ensure there are drivers willing to drive to Southbury.

Tasks:

- Rev. Tony will send a thank-you note to the donor of \$100 for the holiday matching fund.
- Rev. Tony will notify the congregation of the topic for the Dec. 5th Potluck and Conversation.
- Rev. Tony will send his holiday appeal letter in time for Giving Tuesday, Nov. 30.
- Rev. Tony will make a video with Nancy, Trish, and Janet to promote the holiday appeal.
- Rev. Tony will devise and lead some activities focused on UUCM's soul for the Dec. 5th Conversation.
- Rev. Tony will send his Power Point to the website (done) and to the newsletter.
- Someone (who?) will show Rev. Tony's Congregational Conversation Resources on Nov. 14 and give instruction in how to access it. (Didn't happen.)
- Nancy will invite Hannah Berg to the January meeting re tell us what she's learned about making our communications more attractive to all ages.
- Nancy will write up the policy on closing the church for inclement weather, etc. and send it to the LT.
- Nancy will send a note to the newsletter re: lack of volunteers for the Nov. 7 potluck.
- Nancy will speak with Steve Volpini re: lack of people to set up the Nov. 7 potluck.
- Janet will ask Worship to ensure there are enough drivers to drive to Southbury Nov. 21. (Done)
- Rev. Tony and the LT will meet at UUCM at noon Friday Nov. 12 to produce the video.

The meeting adjourned at 8:01pm. Next meeting Dec. 8 at 6:30.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Hiller, Co-President/Clerk