

*Unitarian Universalist
Church in Meriden*



*Annual Report
Fiscal Year
2021 – 2022*

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Unitarian Universalist Church in Meriden

Sunday Serves at 11:00 am
 Rev. Tony Lorenzen, Minister
 Nancy Burton, Co-President
 Janet Hiller, Co-President
 Alan Dougherty, Musician

May 11, 2022

Dear Member of UUCM,

The Annual Meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Meriden is hereby called for Sunday May 22, 2022 directly after the worship service. The meeting will be held both in person and via Zoom.

Meeting agenda:

Minutes of the June 19, 2021 Annual Meeting
 Minutes of the Feb. 27, 2022 Special Congregational Meeting
 Treasurer's Report: Fiscal Year 2020-2021
 Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2021-2022
 Election of Trish Schneider to a one-year term as Treasurer
 Budget for July 2022 – June 2023
 Bylaws changes:
 -Change "Leadership Team" to "Board of Trustees" to be in alignment with normal terminology.
 -Delete Standard Operating Procedures from the Bylaws: They have not been used for a decade.
 Any other business that shall come before the meeting

Please see the Friday Announcements for the Zoom invite to the meeting. There will be a link in the Friday announcements (on or before May 20) to the Bylaws, Annual Report, and proposed FY '23 Budget.

Members of at least 30 days by May 22, 2022 are eligible to vote. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

Yours truly,

Janet Hiller, Co-President and Clerk

328 Paddock Avenue • Meriden, CT 06450-6985
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Unitarian Universalist Church in Meriden

Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

Saturday, June 19, 2021

1:00 PM at Paddock Ave. & via Zoom

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1:16 PM by Jane Dioguardi, Board of Trustees President. Jane lit the chalice in honor of the new federal holiday, Juneteenth.

A quorum of 18 members was present (14 in person and four via Zoom).

BOT Members present:

Jane Dioguardi, President

John Sepples, Vice President

Trish Schneider, Treasurer

Sandy Duffy, Finance Chair

Paula Snedeker, Clerk

Kathleen Lindberg, member-at-large

Randy Heath, Property Chair

Minutes of June 20, 2020 – Annual Meeting

Janet Hiller made a motion to accept the minutes of June 20, 2020 and Richard Gault seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes of October 25, 2020 – Special Congregational Meeting

Janet Hiller made a motion to accept the minutes of October 25, 2020 and John Sepples seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Fiscal Year 2019 – 2020

UUCM ended FY 2020 with a small positive net operating income of \$2,342.73. Surplus of \$1,721.90 was rolled over into the FY 2021 budget. The SBA PPP loan was used for payroll and utilities expenses, and we later received loan forgiveness in April 2021. Trish Schneider thanked Sandy Duffy for all of his work on obtaining both the loan and its forgiveness.

Donna Stimpson made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and Nancy Burton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Annual Report – Fiscal Year 2020 – 2021

Fundraising report was missing tag sale information from July 2020. Updated report will be available after next tag sale on June 26, 2021.

Steve Volpini made a motion to accept the Annual Report as submitted and Angie Swanger seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Budget for July 2021 – June 2022

The budget has a significant deficit due to problems on the income side. Unknown factors: what people will be able to contribute on Sundays when services are back in person; not all pledges for the new year have been received yet; rental income depends on course of the pandemic and if people are comfortable renting the space again given any pandemic-related restrictions.

Donna Stimpson made a motion to accept the budget and Janet Hiller seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Election of officers

Jane asked for nominees for president, vice president, and clerk. Janet Hiller volunteered to be clerk, and Nancy Burton stepped forward for president. Trish Schneider has another year in her term as treasurer, and Randy Heath said he would remain as property chair for another term. However, the bylaws call for a seven-member Board of Trustees, and there were no nominations for vice president, finance chair, or at-large member. At this point, Steve Volpini addressed the members and presented another option suggested by Rev. Tony and previously discussed by the BOT at their last meeting – a leadership team comprised of three people (two co-presidents and a treasurer) to assume the essential duties and responsibilities of church governance (signing legal documents, paying the bills, etc.). In addition, the congregation would meet at least monthly to discuss various business re: social justice, pastoral care, fundraising, etc. Steve shared that he and Janet had visited a church with this structure, where various committees met at the same time and were able to share updates. Steve said the “important part is that we be together at the same time in the same place, getting our work done.” Copies of the current bylaws and the suggested revisions were handed out (and emailed to those on Zoom). The role of clerk was purposely not included, as the co-presidents will organize what needs to be done, including minute-taking and other administrative tasks. Per Rev. Tony, the idea is to make the team as small as it can be but still function – then it can grow, as the congregation grows, without being restricted by bylaws with an outdated “corporate” structure. We will in all likelihood not need all of the committees we used to have, as that committee structure is no longer working for the congregation. Diane Szymaszek voiced support for the proposed new organizational structure, saying it gives other people the chance to speak up more, and suggesting that every month can have a priority topic (finance, fundraising, etc.). Rev. Tony clarified that adopting this new structure would require a change to the bylaws by a two-thirds vote of the members in attendance.

Jeff May made a motion to accept the proposed revisions to the bylaws and Steve Volpini seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Nominations for the leadership team were accepted by Nancy Burton, Janet Hiller, and Trish Schneider.

Donna Stimpson made a motion to accept the slate of nominees and Diane Szymaszek seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

Members endorsed plans for a Social Justice Committee fundraiser over the summer.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 2:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula A. Snedeker
Clerk, UU Meriden Board of Trustees

**Unitarian Universalist Church in Meriden
Congregational Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2022**

President Nancy Burton called the meeting to order at 12:15pm with 17 members present. The meeting was held in hybrid format: in person and via Zoom.

The **purpose of this meeting was to authorize withdrawal of funds, if absolutely necessary, from the Legacy Fund to balance the budgets of fiscal years '21-'22 and '22-'23.**

Jeff May made the motion and Peg Kirkpatrick seconded it.

Treasurer Trish Schneider noted that the lack of fundraising income (due to the COVID pandemic) will result in a shortfall for this fiscal year. In order to pay current bills, she has borrowed internally from various funds in church accounts. Cash flow will be tight until we have some fundraisers. We may need to take \$10,000 from the Legacy Fund, currently valued at about \$63,000, to cover this year's and next year's anticipated shortfalls.

The Matching Challenge Fund currently under way cannot be accessed until July 1, 2022.

The vote was **15 in favor, one opposed, no abstentions**. Since there was no tie, Nancy did not vote.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50pm via a motion by Donna Stimpson, seconded by Trish Schneider.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Hiller, Co-President, Clerk

**Annual Report for Program Year 2021-2022
from the Minister, Rev. Tony Lorenzen
To
The Board and the Membership of the UU Church in Meriden**

Evaluation of Goals set in June 2021 for the 2021-2022 Program Year

Last year at this time I set goals for myself as a minister working with the congregation and goals for the Board/Congregation. These goals were as follows:

My Personal Goals as a Minister for the Program Year just completed, 2021-2022

1. Re/Establish Personal Relationships with the membership.
2. Become more involved in the local community.
3. Develop hybrid in-person/online Sunday service and educational programming.
4. Cultivate an abundance mindset in the congregation and improve fund-raising skills.
5. Guide an organizational restructuring that develops a way forward for the congregation as it faces the need to find more leaders and to maximize volunteer hours.

My Recommendations for Board/Congregational Goals for the Program Year just completed, 2021-2022

1. Organizational Restructuring.
2. Explore Long Term Possibilities for Continued Vitality
3. Develop an Abundance mindset.

Evaluation of Personal Ministerial Goals

Personal Goal 1 - Re/Establish Personal Relationships with the membership. This did not go as planned in that this work on re-establishing relationships with the membership fell to the Board (Leadership Team) of Janet Hiller, Nancy Burton, and Trish Schneider. Last fall they contacted all the members and friends on our list and as a result we have a very good idea of who is committed to being involved actively with the church, who is a supporter and/or donor, as well as who is no longer interested in being involved or connected. The congregation is smaller in number, but it's fair to say all those still involved are invested in the church and its future, some more actively than others, but we have a very good sense of who's in, who's out, and what we have to work with to build from here. I wish I had been able to personally connect more with people. The public health situation getting better and then worse and then better made it difficult. It also made more sense for me to work from home than to spend 1.5-2 hours driving to the church when there was virtually no contact with people while I was there. I do however feel the connection between minister and members has been improved greatly by Sunday Worship services being in-person, the monthly congregational conversations, and the work with various teams and committees also happening in person as well as via Zoom.

Personal Goal 2 - Become more involved in the local community. I feel as if this goal was half-realized. In some ways, I became LESS involved in the local community than I was last program year. There were a few reasons for this. The most influential reason was that the Meriden clergy group continued to gather sporadically due to public health restrictions varying, and many events where my presence would have benefitted us were cancelled. On the positive side, there were some successes. I have been involved in some statewide justice efforts representing the congregation, and the re-dedication of our Black Lives Matter banner garnered some great press. We did secure having United Action CT rent office space in our building, and this is a positive I was able to achieve in working with Mark Kosnoff, their director. We also had some moderate success in being more involved with the UU network in CT by having our Board meet with the leadership of All Souls New London and lay the groundwork for a mentoring relationship with them for the coming year. We also connected

to the congregation in Stamford that is facing many of the same issues we are in terms of number, money, staffing, and future direction. It's very difficult to be involved in the community as a part time minister and even more difficult living a 40-minute drive away.

Personal Goal 3 – Develop hybrid in-person/online Sunday service and educational programming.

There was some success in this area, but not as robust a success as I was hoping for. The services I led on Sunday mornings were very well attended, I thought, given the COVID precautions for any particular Sunday. The services I led were on Zoom for members who couldn't attend in person or didn't feel safe, health-wise, attending in person. However, sermons have not been recorded or posted online. The participation in what educational programming I offered was minimal. One UU Meriden member attended my Congregational Leadership Class, two people were regular participants in my book group, and three people were regular participants in the small group ministry group. Those numbers are FAR below last year. The attendance at monthly congregational conversations I facilitated, however, were outstanding, given the COVID situation on any given Sunday, and it seems those conversations have been very successful in getting people on the same page, and discerning a way forward.

Personal Goal 4 Cultivate an abundance mindset in the congregation and improve fundraising skills. I

believe we were able to positively advance our ability to creatively raise money. We may not have raised enormous totals, but for the number of people working on various projects, I think they were very successful. Time spent on the mid-year holiday appeal was well rewarded and the effort to raise extra money to keep my salary in the budget was well done.

Personal Goal 5 Guide an organizational restructuring that develops a way forward for the congregation as it faces the need to find more leaders and to maximize volunteer hours.

This was a big success. We were able to restructure the church's Board to a manageable size, and our Committee of the Whole monthly congregational conversations replaced some tasks of many now inoperative committees. We established good boundaries for the Board to not pick up every dropped ball. We worked cooperatively to come up with some guidelines for how to tell leadership about time and talent contributions with the steps-of-involvement graphic, which we are turning into part of the pledge form. Clearly articulating and communicating the need for members to step up has resulted in an assistant treasurer stepping forward and members having a better understanding of exactly what we can and can't expect given the level of time involvement from the membership.

Evaluation of Board/Congregational Goals.

Board/Congregational Goal 1. Organizational Restructuring – The Board and the membership should consider this a BIG success. See details from Personal Goal 5 above. The UUA's New England Regional Office published our revised Board schema for other small congregations to consider; the monthly conversations provided more help than we expected in organizing ourselves and communicating with each other. The leadership and membership are thinking creatively about our realities without getting bogged down in false notions of congregational failure and doomsaying. I'm incredibly proud of everyone at the UU Church in Meriden for pulling this off. I am honored to have been part of this work this year. HUGE pat on the back for ourselves!!!

Board/Congregational Goal 2. Explore Long Term Possibilities for Continued Vitality - This was another BIG success. We reached out to other congregations and found another partner to be in relationship with MUUS and the UU Church in Meriden – The UU Congregation in Stamford. It's a ways away, but a single yearly visit to them and they to us along with MUUS adds more resources and contacts and conversation partners which can only help all of us. We began a conversation with the minister and leaders of All Souls New London and although it doesn't seem that becoming a satellite campus is in the works, it does look like we will

be in conversation with them next year in a mentoring congregation relationship where we can learn from them and (probably to a lesser extent) they from us.

Board/Congregational Goal 3 - Develop an Abundance mindset – We definitely made improvements in this area. The campaign to raise extra funds to pay for my salary was a big success, and we have deepened the conversation about stewardship both in terms of money and in terms of time and talent commitments. I also believe we are operating less from a scarcity mindset and getting better at thinking creatively how to use what we do have.

Goals for the Coming Year, 2022-2023

I am not certain of my goals for the coming year at this point, but there are some things I am thinking about.

1. **Developing a 3-5 year plan.** We don't know how next year will play out. We don't know how COVID will deal us in the coming year. We don't know about the financial viability of continuing to fund a part-time minister. We don't know how our work with All Souls New London, Stamford, and MUUS will play out. We don't know how having United Action CT will impact their work and ours. And yet... I think we've gained enough insight over the last year to make a viable 3-year plan, settling on 2-3 long term goals and making contingencies in terms of membership numbers, finances, COVID, and other variables.
2. **The Future of the Ministry at UU Church in Meriden** - Part of this plan in Goal 1 will be having a trajectory that plans on having a part-time minister and a trajectory that plans on NOT having a minister. Maybe there's a middle ground between half-time ministry and no ministry. It might be something like an "on-board consultant" that leads a Sunday service once a month and then afterward meets with the leadership team for an agreed upon fee or some other creative arrangement. Some of the work that goes with all the things listed in the first two goals probably needs to be....
3. **Reimagining our mission and what it means to be a member.** The church has a nice mission, but I think we need to determine HOW we go about filling that mission of justice, community, and spiritual growth given our current size. What justice issues will be a priority? What spiritual growth can we offer? What does our community provide to those looking for connection? Thinking about this will lead to...
4. **Developing a Marketing Strategy** that effectively selects and markets to a specific target audience in terms of drawing people into what we're doing.

Governance Reports

Annual Report of the Leadership Team

Nancy Burton, Janet Hiller and Trish Schneider

This was the first year that UUCM has had a smaller Leadership Team (LT). In the past, we had a Board of Trustees (BOT) with seven people. At last year's Annual Meeting, members voted to have a Leadership Team with three people—two co-presidents and a treasurer. The two co-presidents were to split the duties as they saw fit. On this team, one of the co-presidents assumed most of the presidential duties while the other co-president took on the duties of clerk/secretary. This has worked well for us this year.

Our primary focus this year has been to lead the congregation, along with Rev. Tony Lorenzen, in a process of looking at who we are as a congregation, who we want to be, and how to move forward so our congregational community can survive and thrive. We were also mindful that we have been through an international pandemic, which has changed how we have had to do many things and has contributed to increased stress and increased sense of isolation for many. Some healing needs to take place.

We started this process with a series of one-on-one interviews. An LT member or one other volunteer contacted each member of the congregation. We checked in with how people were doing and talked about their connection and level of involvement with our church, and what they might need from us. We sent letters to members talking about what we felt was ahead of us. This was followed by monthly Congregational Conversations where we discussed the congregation's current status, our hopes and dreams for our future, and shared ideas of how we can make these hopes and dreams a reality. We have discussed people's level of investment in the congregation in both financial support and volunteer support. One wonderful thing that happened at these meetings was a strong commitment to retain a half-time minister. The congregation initiated a Matching Fund drive too, which has been quite successful. We haven't raised all the needed funds yet but we are closing the gap. We have also discussed the types of volunteer help that is needed to sustain us. We have seen some positive results from this effort and hope this momentum will continue and grow.

We have also been exploring ways to connect with other congregations and possibly be helped with our journey. We have had several conversations with the minister and BOT members of All Souls New London. We are entering into a mentorship with them where we can share ideas of ways to thrive and grow stronger. We will be working on operationalizing this over the next year. A consultant from the UUA will give us guidance as we proceed.

We continue to have a yoked relationship with the Mattatuck Unitarian Universalist Society to share the work and the support of our minister. We may explore ways to strengthen the connection between the two congregations over the next year.

Keeping track of the status of the COVID pandemic and updating our COVID prevention policies has been another important item we have had to address. We have reached out to the congregation for input on when and how policies should be altered. This work continues.

We recognize that so many people are contributing to our congregation with their time and effort. Therefore, we established a "Person of the Month" recognition in our monthly newsletter. Each month a contributing member is recognized for their contributions and a month is named for them. We appreciate everything people do to maintain our congregational community.

We worked with the Social Justice Council to have a rededication of our Black Lives Matter flag, which had been ripped down and vandalized a few times. This event was quite successful and included attendance from

local leaders, a letter of support from Senator Blumenthal, and media coverage. This was another opportunity for our congregation to live its values.

We strengthened our relationship with United Action Connecticut (UACT) by renting them office space. UACT is an interfaith coalition working for justice, of which UUCM is a member congregation. UACT has long shown support for justice activities that UUCM has been engaged in. We are thinking about other possible connections we can make with entities in our community who share our values and work to improve conditions for people here and elsewhere. This is another opportunity to live our faith and our values.

Respectfully submitted,

The Leadership Team

Nancy Burton

Janet Hiller

Trish Schneider

Finance Report Trish Schneider

The Finance Committee welcomed Elaine Donovan as Assistant Treasurer.

This year the committee continued its regular work, using remote tools like Zoom due to the ongoing pandemic. The primary focus was maintaining the congregation's financial health during uncertain times.

Operating income for FY22 is projected to fall below the budgeted amount, mainly due to Fundraising income being lower than anticipated. Special collections and rental income are up but cannot make up for the lack of fundraising income. We will have a deficit for fiscal year 2022 and will likely need to draw down the Legacy fund to cover the deficit. Details on the operating income and expenses are below.

- **Operating Income:** We had three major sources of income: Pledges, Collections, (Sunday and Special) and Fundraising/Rental. Pledge income is coming in close to the budgeted amount. Thank you to all who have pledged and honored it in a timely manner. UUCM had three major fundraising events: the Holiday Fair, the Daffodil Festival Tag Sale, and the spring Tag Sale. In addition to our fundraising events, income has been raised through the sale of face masks and crafts at Gallery 53. Rev. Tony made great videos which helped with our Holiday Appeal, which raised over \$3,000. Rental income is higher than budgeted.
- Expenses are anticipated to be slightly lower than budgeted. The Finance Committee was able to keep the building expenses low by prepaying heating fuel. We also used our small Building Fund to update the church's Security and Fire Alarm System.
- In 2021, our Legacy Fund recovered from the losses in 2020 income. Due to economic and political uncertainties in the world, it has experienced a small loss in the gains of 2021. As of March 30, 2022, the Legacy Fund stood at \$62,439.61.
- FY 23: Members and friends of the congregation have committed to generous pledges and donations to the Matching Challenge Fund and the Pledge Drive. The Matching Challenge Fund has so far raised 80% of the needed funds. UUCM is on track to balance our FY 23 Budget.

In FY22 the Finance Team:

- Used new tools and strategy for fundraising, such as videos and matching challenges.
- Ran a successful Faithify fundraiser and the Holiday Appeal.
- Started the process of researching the cost of a new roof.

- Conducted monthly reviews of the congregation's financial reports.
- Made a review of the congregation's insurance policies.
- Conducted a congregational budget forum prior to the Annual Meeting.

Many thanks to this year's members of the Fundraising event teams and Finance Committee. Special thanks to the Fundraising events teams' organizers: Ann Dougherty, Diane Szymaszek, Pat Stark, Donna Stimpson and Trish Schneider. Thanks also to those members who helped at the Holiday Fair and Daffodil Festival Tag Sale. Finance Committee Members are: Trish Schneider, (Treasurer), Janet Hiller, Sandy Duffy, Richard Gault, Rich Kargher. Lastly, thank you to Rev. Tony Lorenzen for his creative support with the Holiday Appeal and the Pledge Drive.

If you are a member of the congregation who is interested in joining the Finance Committee, please contact Treasurer: Trish Schneider, Trish1864@gmail.com.

Respectfully Submitted,
Trish Schneider, Treasurer

Property Report 2021-2022 **Randy Heath**

While the building has been either closed or on a restricted-use basis during the pandemic, Property's activities have been limited but not entirely quiet. A note of gratitude and thanks to all those who have pitched in to keep our physical building and property maintained and looking good.

The City of Meriden Health Department inspected our kitchen in August 2021, and we passed with flying colors. Thanks to Ann Smith for her hard work deep-cleaning the kitchen.

The Meriden City Tax Collector inspected the building, escorted by Trish and Donna, to verify that we are an active church and continue to meet tax exempt status for our property.

Diane and Chet installed new flag holders on the front of the building. Flags are put up on Sunday morning before service.

Diane, Donna, and others have put on their gloves and done a lot of weeding, mulching, and gardening on the property, cleaning up under the sign and around the front entrance, and preparing the beautiful Spiral Garden to be enjoyed again this year.

Donna and Cindy Ferguson undertook the major project of repainting the floors in the RE rooms, which required moving the contents of the room, cleaning the floor, painting it, and moving the contents back after the paint cured.

Roman Oil addressed problems with the furnace. It appears to be operating well at this time.

The dishwasher continues to be a source of minor issues, possibly due to the limited use it has seen the past two years, with a couple minor leaking situations occurring.

Sandy found a new lawn mowing service for us that will reduce our mowing costs substantially. Our previous contractor was gracious about this change and will remain on call as a back-up.

The roof remains the largest issue faced by our physical plant. Intermittent leaks continue to appear. I met with two roofing contractors several years ago, as well as our insurance company's designated adjuster. The insurance company has cited normal wear and age as reasons they aren't willing to provide any coverage or support towards replacing the roof. Sandy met with Best Connecticut Roofing in early 2022 for an updated quote. BCR estimate to replace the roof is approximately \$36,300.

At this time, the construction industry in general, and roofing in particular, are quite busy, and Sandy was not able to get additional quotes due to companies not having the bandwidth to even quote jobs at this time, and in some cases simply not responding at all. I have identified two further potential contractors if we want to move forward at this time; however, if we cannot realistically proceed due to finances, I am hesitant to ask for their time. Looking to the Leadership Team for direction.

While I haven't been in the building frequently this year, whenever I am on site, I try to check and clean out the mousetraps in the basement. The body count has been lower than in previous years, so that seems like a good thing.

I have several small fix-it jobs started but not completed that I am trying to find time for. The cover for the ceiling fan/light in the bathroom is at my house, as it needed to be cleaned; I have to replace that. I hope to do that when I go to install the air conditioners soon, now that warm weather is upon us. The automatic closer arm for the door at the bottom of the stairs to the basement has been broken for some time, and I need to re-attach it, but need to find the correct hardware for this.

No doubt there are other tasks, fixes, and projects that have been performed the past year that have been overlooked here, and I apologize to all those unacknowledged in this report. Your contributions are appreciated and valued.

Respectfully submitted,
Randy Heath
May 14, 2022

Faith Formation Reports

Worship Associates Annual Report UU Church in Meriden Program Year 2021-2022

The Worship Associates were a small but creative group. Jeff May, Peg Kirkpatrick, Anita Sanders, and Elaine Donovan helped Rev. Tony Lorenzen plan, schedule, and (when he wasn't present) lead Sunday morning worship services. They met once a month online via Zoom to schedule services and deal with other worship issues and items. On Sundays when none of the team were available to lead, they recruited members such as Steve Volpini and Denis Picard. The team once again used monthly themes from Soul Matters. Their planning had to navigate shifting COVID protocols, and services were in-person, online, and both in-person and online. Some in-person services were outside and some were inside. As the year ends, services are usually inside. We are still wearing masks and distancing in the sanctuary, but we have been singing with masks on since March. They experimented with different types of services when Rev. Tony wasn't present. Some Sunday services were more like small group ministry, with sharing joys and concerns and shared reflections. Although some services were online, none were video-recorded, and we haven't had much of an online presence in terms of sermons. Our accompanist, Alan Dougherty, has only been available two Sundays a month, as he is also working at a Catholic church on some Sunday mornings. He has chosen to be available for the services Rev. Tony leads.

Going into next program year, the Worship Associates is working with Rev. Tony to have a full year's schedule for worship drafted (although not finalized) by the end of May 2022, so there is plenty of time to recruit help for Sundays when Rev. Tony will not be with us. The team will once again use Soul Matters resources for monthly themes, and they are planning to schedule more guest preachers, using money previously budgeted to pay for an accompanist each Sunday to pay for them. The team also plans to make sure we video record more sermons, at least those from Rev. Tony, so the videos can add to our online and social media presence.

Rev. Tony Lorenzen
UUCM Annual Report; 05-17-2022

Pastoral Care Team Annual Report Kathleen Lindberg

The Pastoral Care Team was busy this past year, assisting church members as we all coped with COVID, Many cards were mailed. Nursing home visits were made when permitted. Meals were delivered to homes, phone calls were made, and e-mails were sent. Rides to doctor appointments were made as well as home visits. Lunch dates were made and enjoyed. Financial assistance was provided as well as information on community resources. It was rewarding to be able to help our church family...Kathleen Lindberg

Annual Report of the Social Justice Council Steve Volpini

Despite the pandemic, the Social Justice Council has continued meeting--on Zoom. We have had a busy year on several fronts.

Anti-Racism

Last spring, before most of us had stopped attending large gatherings, we participated in two Black Lives Matter rallies in downtown Meriden in response to George Floyd's murder. One rally was sponsored by the City, a larger one by young activists.

Beloved Conversations, a three-year intensive course, has guided participants' deep conversations on race, concentrating on personal experiences and feelings. This year, the program will focus more on Unitarian Universalist history with race issues.

Help for the Undocumented

UU Meriden was very fortunate last spring to be given a \$5,000 grant from United Way of Meriden-Wallingford. The grant was specifically targeted to assist undocumented residents. These families, identified by activists on their behalf, are unable to receive the federal financial assistance available to citizens. With the grant, SJC bought store cards from two supermarket chains and distributed them during the summer of 2020. As the pandemic persisted, and citizens received federal assistance directly in the mail, SJC this spring asked for further donations from church members and friends who had received their checks. Dozens responded and gave \$3,000. That will also go to the undocumented. Distribution has already begun, with the purchase of a child's bicycle and a donated scooter, and the rest will be distributed soon.

Women and Children's Center

Robyn's House and the WYSHouse are two forms of housing—the former permanent and the latter transitional—for young adults who have found themselves homeless. SJC donated several boxes of goods to help these young people set up their new apartments. We gave toiletries, crockery, blankets, comforters, and clothing to the cause.

Health Care

During the year, members of the Social Justice Council attended rallies and conferences and testified before the legislature on health care matters. These include universal health care coverage and HUSKY coverage for the undocumented.

Policing

In the year after the murder of George Floyd, the nation has become aware of police interactions with the minority community. The SJC has encouraged people to express their views on policing. This is part of a Meriden initiative to establish a civilian police oversight commission.

Now that a majority of the population is vaccinated, SJC will meet in person, beginning in July. Please look for announcements of our meetings if you would like to participate.

Submitted by Steve Volpini

UUCM Annual Report; 05-17-2022

The Unitarian Universalist Church in Meriden Stewardship Report

This year we have been living on tenterhooks. The COVID-19 pandemic has infected several people in the church, with all surviving and reaching recovery, some more thoroughly than others. Church attendance was down considerably this past year but has picked up as spring progresses.

Gratefully, people pledged generously, even though they were not attending regularly. For a period, an abundance of precaution required us to meet outdoors. Coffee hour—our form of convivial communion—was absent. Discussion was sacrificed to safety.

Nevertheless, we received two dozen pledges of more than \$1,000 a year, which may be a record. Our Treasurer, Trish Schneider, reports that we have reached close to 90 percent of our expected pledge income. We have reached out to three dozen people with reminders. Several long-absent folks are hoping to be with us soon. Others will need more friendly visits and support.

This year we have been gratified to see community support from those who appreciated and have joined us in our civic and social responsibility endeavours. As a church of dedication and hard work as well as faith, we are grateful for their support and recognition.

Steve Volpini

APPENDIX – FY 2019-2020

Treasurer's Report

Trish Schneider

The Unitarian Universalist Church in Meriden (UUCM) ended Fiscal year 2020 with a positive net operating Income of \$2,342.73 which includes Social Justice Council's share of the collection plate, \$620.83. Surplus income of \$ 1,721.90 was rolled over into the Fiscal year 2021 budget. UUCM was able to obtain SBA PPP Loan of \$10,210 in May of 2020. The loan was used to pay payroll and utilities expenses. UUCM applied for the SBA PPP Loan forgiveness in winter of 2021. UUCM received the loan forgiveness April 20, 2021. I would like to thank Sandy Duffy for all his work on obtaining the SBA PPP loan and loan forgiveness.

Designated Funds

We received donations to the following discretionary funds: Memorial Fund and Minister's Discretionary Fund (Pastoral Care Fund). The Memorial Fund received \$690 in donations. The fund balance as of June 30, 2020 was \$2,180. The Minister's Discretionary Fund received \$2,369.09 in donations. The fund balance as of June 30, 2020 was \$2,369.09.

UUCM's Endowment had a modest gain of \$320.16. The balance as of June 30th, 2020 was \$54,095.66

Detail Treasurer's Reports for Fiscal Year 2021 are available upon request. Below are shortened reports. The Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget is available as a separate document.

Unitarian Universalist Church in Meriden
Profit and Loss
July 1, 2019- June 30, 2020

Operating Income	\$ 75,158.33
4100 Annual Pledge	
4120 Collection Plate	
4121 Collection plate-Cash	3,209.37
4124 SJC	4,010.41
Total 4120 Collection Plate	\$ 7,219.78
4130 Special Collections	\$8,970.00
4140 Building Rentals	\$4,369.28
4200 Fundraising	\$ 5,567.09
4300 Other Income	
4320 Surplus	53.71
4325 Sanctuary reimbursement to General fund (deleted)	321.65
4330 Discounts/Refunds Given	362.50
Total 4300 Other Income	\$737.86
4340 Designated Reserves net asset Released	1,390.54
Total Operating Income	\$103,412.88
GROSS Operating Income	\$103,412.88
6000 Operating Expenses	
6010 Financial Fees	536.93
6015 Utilities	10,125.87
6030 Office Printer Lease	2,416.58
6035 Security Monitoring	179.94
6038 Trash	300.00
6040 Insurance	
6041 commercial multi Peril Insurance	3,409.83
6042 Worker's comp. Insurance	460.85
Total 6040 Insurance	\$3,870.68
6050 Mortgage	
6051 Mortgage principal	9,431.61
6052 Mortgage- Interest Paid	2,419.59
Total 6050 Mortgage	\$ 11,851.20
6060 Office Supplies & Software	397.61
Total 6000 Operating Expenses	\$ 29,678.81
6055 UUA Dues	7,000.00
6100 Stewardship	165.00
6200 Professional Ministry	25,431.97
6214 Minister Pension	2,894.06
6230 Professional Ministry- Benefits	4,708.00
6235 Professional Ministry- Professional Expenses	4,000.00
6236 Ministerial moving	3,049.13
Total 6200 Professional Ministry	\$ 40,082.86
6300 Salaries & Wages	9,817.78

6400 Property Expenses	4,388.50
6500 Regular Sunday Activities	5,850.03
6600 Membership	196.63
6655 Leadership Development	25.00
6660 Fundraising seed money	0.00
6700 Social Justice Council	3,423.38
6730 Communication	265.00
6740 faith Formation	177.16
Total Operating Expenses	\$101070.15
Net Operating Income	\$ 2342.73
Other Income	
5100 Special Collections Pass Thru	895.00
5200 Sanctuary Funds (deleted)	4,315.00
5225 United Way Grant	5,000.00
5250 Memorial Fund	775.00
5400 Pastoral Care Fund	3,254.09
5800 unrealized gain (loss)	320.16
Other Miscellaneous Income	0.00
Total Other Income	\$14,559.25
Other Expenses	
6053 Mortgage Budget Offset credit	0.00
7100 Pass Thru donation and gifts	825.00
7200 Chalice Sanctuary Expenses	4,315.00
7400 Pastoral Care expense	865.00
Total Other Expenses	\$ 6,005.00
Net Other Income	\$8,554.25
Net Income	\$10,896.98

Unitarian Universalist Church in Meriden
Balance Sheet
As of June 30, 2020

ASSETS

Current Assets

Bank Accounts

1005 Operations- 6601	25,382.82
1010 target-6628	12,220.87
1020 Online-9090	665.95

Total Bank Accounts	\$ 38,269.64
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Other Current Assets

1120 Legacy fund	54,619.08
1400 Other Current Assets	523.42
1410 Prepaid- Heating Fuel budget plan	

Total Other Current Assets	\$ 54,619.08
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Total Current Assets	\$ 92,888.72
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Fixed Assets

1500 328 Paddock Ave.	250,000.00
1501 Buildings	200,880.16

Total Fixed Assets	\$ 450,880.16
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TOTAL ASSETS

	\$ 543,768.88
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LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities	\$ 1,843.18
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Long-Term Liabilities

2101 Mortgage-Paddock Avue	54,354.65
2210 SMA PPP Loan	10,210.00

Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$ 64,564.65
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Total Liabilities	\$ 66,407.83
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Equity

3110 Unrestricted net assets	9,216.23
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3130 SJC net asset	1,122.25
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3210 CYRE Fund	492.92
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3220 Memorial Fund	1,490.00
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3230 Building Fund	4,579.73
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Total 3200 Designated Reserves net assets	\$ 7,684.90
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3300 restricted net assets

3310 Legacy fund	53,775.50
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3400 Net asset of building	395,787.44
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Total 3300 restricted net assets	\$ 449,562.94
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Retained Earnings	0.00
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Net Income	10,896.98
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Total Equity	\$ 477,361.05
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TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 543,768.88
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