

UUCM Board of Trustees
Minutes Jan. 23, 2023

The meeting was held at 10am on Monday Jan. 23 instead of Wed. Jan. 25 because of a conflict.

Attendees: Nancy Burton, Janet Hiller, Trish Schneider, Rev. Tony Lorenzen.

The **Jan. 11, 2023 minutes were approved** by consensus.

Treasurer's report:

We have \$20,000 in the Operations account.

SJC funding: Trish has already transferred to SJC the budgeted amount for this fiscal year.

SJC should use these funds for causes rather than for running the committee.

We should budget an amount for SJC causes and not have their funding depend on a percentage of the collection plate. The amount allocated could be self-adjusting—increasing as membership increases.

The report was accepted by consensus.

Congregational Conversation:

The January Conversation was canceled because good connections were being made via the natural conversations among the Stone Soup participants (at least 20 people).

The February Conversation will focus on the soul of UUCM and on planning for growth.

The March Conversation will focus on the Sunday morning experience.

New-to-UU Class:

At least one well established member should be present for every two newcomers. Rev. Tony will invite some current members, such as Peg Kirkpatrick, Kathy Lindberg, Jane Dioguardi, Diane Szymaszek, Tim O'Brien.

Ask new members for ideas re: how to keep them here and active.

Need three point people to work with the Board, one each for hospitality, leadership development, training a treasurer or Worship Associate.

Discussion:

Suggestion not to take an offering at Sunday services: Trish and Janet emphatically said No.

Order of service: Use a laminated generic one that can be reused. Display hymn numbers in the room, e.g., on a white board.

Need a conversation about Sunday rituals, procedures.

Do a marketing blitz in the spring.

Regional Unconference (Sat. Mar. 11):

Eleven people are registered, including Richard Gault.

Rev. Tony sent a notice for this week's newsletter about the event.

He will announce the event on Sunday mornings and show a 30-second video promo.

Tout this event at the new member class as a way to know UUism and UUCM.

A month before—i.e., about Feb. 22—the board should send a letter to the boards of the other CT UU churches to invite them.

Four weeks before, use the Unconference as the Facebook landing page.

Sunday Feb. 26 we'll have a cleanup after the service with a potluck. Nancy will send a notice to the newsletter.

Bylaws revision:

Rev. Tony: Control voting by controlling the membership process. Our only requirements thus far for joining UUCM are: agreement with our philosophy and signing the membership book. Need a better definition of who's a member.

Discuss bylaws changes with the congregation, perhaps at the Congregational Conversation in April or at a special forum.

Have Anita Sanders as an adviser/consultant.

Old Business:

Nancy reported that she and Trish will soon meet with the president and treasurer of MUUS re: Rev. Tony's contract and how we will proceed next year with him leading both congregations.

Weather cancellation policy is OK as is.

The '23-'24 Matching Fund to keep Rev. Tony: \$7,585 has been pledged; we may need as much as \$20K.

Nancy will talk with a few members re: their intentions on their pledges, Matching and regular.

AED and Narcan: Return to these in March.

UUA Certification: We aren't going to do the optional sections.

Our membership list for the UUA needs to be updated. Ask Tim O'Brien to do it?

Property:

Donna is to buy the emergency lighting fixtures. Can't just change bulbs. (Buy all? Half?)

There's potential to qualify for a grant/s for energy efficiency. We'd need a grant writer. Possible 30% rebates on solar panels.

New Business:

Rev. Tony reported that the Hartford church has posted a full-time minister position to start in March. He suggested that we contact them re: possibly sharing him.

The Hamden minister is on leave for two months and may be leaving.

We will do a COLA increase in Rev. Tony's salary.

Trish will gradually budget for increasing the pianist's salary to \$200 per Sunday. For '23-'24, we'll pay him \$175, then \$200 the following year.

Donna Stimpson has proposed putting solar lights in the parking lot. Nancy will ask her to get estimates for the cement bases to hold them.

Piano in large RE room: Playable? Tuneable? Nancy has the name of a tuner to check with. We'll also ask our pianist, Kevin Wyman, for his opinion (and whether he could use it in his studio).

Tasks:

Nancy will send a notice to the newsletter re: the Feb. 26 potluck and cleanup day.

Rev. Tony will determine how/if we can use the table that's in the front room (for the Unconference.)

Trish will create new bylaws wording for the Treasurer job description.

Rev. Tony will investigate possible bylaws wording for ministers other than "called."

Nancy will talk with certain members about their intentions on their pledges, Matching and regular.

Nancy will contact the Hartford church re: sharing Rev. Tony's services or perhaps helping them.

Trish will ask Tim O'Brien if he'll update our membership list for the UUA's records.

Nancy will ask Donna Stimpson to get estimates for cement bases for solar parking lot lights.

The meeting adjourned at 12:34pm. Next meeting: Wed. Feb. 8 at 6:30pm via Zoom

Respectfully submitted, Janet Hiller