First Unitarian Board Meeting

July 20, 2024 - 10AM-12PM

Location : Social Hall

AGENDA

Board Members: Dámaris Donado (President), EmmaLia Mariner (VP), , Andrea Lee, Carla Williams, Donna Collins, William Miller, Chris Mayo, Rev. Angela Herrera (ex-officio member), Bryan Hackett (Finance Director)

Guest: Rev. Bob LaVallee (Guest)

Absent: Bill Slakey, Michael McDonald (Treasurer)

CHALICE LIGHTING

- Volunteer for chalice reading.
- Volunteer to light the chalice.

Created in the Image of Love

Each of us was created in the image of Love.
Wherever we come from, wherever we're going.
Whoever we are, whomever we love.
We proclaim with Love on our side:
Our bodies are sacred. Our minds are blessed. Our spirits are beloved.
May we be open to receive more love, always more Love.

- Karishma Gottfried

Read Board Covenant Aloud **Board Covenant**

Check in– how are you this morning?

1. **Approving the Minutes: LINK:**
    a. Motion to Approve: Andrea
    b. Second: Carla
    c. All in Favor: Yes

2. **Consent Agenda: LINK:**
    a. Executive Staff Report: [Link]
        i. Rev. Angela
            1. Congratulations on the award!
            2. Guidelines for boundaries for her sabbatical are very helpful.
        ii. Rev. Bob
            1. Q from Chris: Have other programs heard back from the security grant? Heard that it is historically slow. Bob- will ask others who have applied.
        iii. Common:
            1. Crime impact– financial, structural, AND emotional. Broken windows.
            2. Does seem targeted; there have been too many hits in a shorter period of time.
            3. Will be seeking screens for the windows in the lower windows for the RE and office areas. Usually the higher windows are not impacted; looking to do lower ones.
                a. Could have impact on
            4. Why? People are coming inside. Leaving a mess, looking for things to pawn.
            5. APD involvement– now in conversations with the Commander. Leaving police car on campus, doing random patrols.
            6. Carla idea: Reach out to city counselors.

b. Staff Reports
    i. RE Program
        1. Parents really need more support. They need a place for the kids to be and for them to be separate and have some ability to experience religious community.
        2. The idea of signing up to volunteer is too much for parents.
        3. Feeling of social isolation. Inability to be the people who plans things.
        4. Any ideas about getting the volunteers they need? This is difficult to sustain. Shifting away from high-content programming, and more about creating a covenantal space for kids to go to and hang out. Away from the classroom model.
        5. Chris: The most important thing is to get the kids to want to come back.
        6. Considering: moving RE back to during the service– 11am. Join the start of the service, and then the children go to RE for the rest of the service.
        7. Ideas: Dámaris, can the kids be in one large group without more division with the age ranges. Ask the older youth about that, have a conversation about that.

3. Membership Committee

- Motion to Approve: Chris
- Second: EmmaLia
- All in Favor: All

a. Donna Collins
b. Ron Garcia-Herrera, co-chair
c. Lisa Jaynes Johnson, co-chair

d. Kristin Kennedy
e. Iris Magnusson
f. Margo Milleret
g. Andy Moralez
h. Kathy Suydam
i. Benita Terrell
j. Dorothea Wallace

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k. Andrea Lee, Board liaison
l. Laira Magnusson, ex-officio

4. Ordaining Kristin Famula

a. Call for a meeting this fall season.
b. She has been doing a contract ministry with a church in Utah. She approached the conversation with Rev. Angela and Rev. Bob and they were
    i. This would be in collaboration with two other churches. She will handle the collaboration.
    ii. April is the goal.
    iii. Process– we want to make sure that we ask the congregation before we start lining up the logistics.
    iv. 70 folks constitute a quorum, so we could do this after the service. September 29th- shorter service in order to have a vote?
c. Motion: The motion is to call a congregational meeting for the purpose of voting on ordaining Kristin Famula.
    i. Primary: William
    ii. Second: Dámaris
    iii. All: Yes
d. Note that Mikaela will need to be available for moderating.
    i. Update later in the meeting: she is!

5. **Finance Committee:**
6. Treasurer: Michael McDonald. [*Michael was absent. Bryan Hackett provided this report.]*
    a. Internal Accountant's Compilation Report for the year ended December 31, 2023. Has been created, is available digital or hard copy binded.
    b. We look pretty good, we are ahead of the budget. Revenue is ahead, and expenses while high are not putting us in a bad situation.
    c. We do expect the campus budget to go over by about 30k. We have learned that this needs to be a larger budget.
    d. The church approved a conservative budget for this year that reflects a deficit.
    e. 54% rev in, 48% spent, but we do have larger bills at EOY. We are right on track.
    f. The IRS is getting pressure to pay out legitimate claims. For our church, we are expecting 117k. Bryan recommends to the board this amount go towards Capital Reserves.
    g. Roof loan payment– there is still an open project with panels. One strategy Bryan is using to support the budget overall is making minimum payments on this loan through December of this year.
    h. Also, the Social Hall will need to be refinanced in 2026 and the roof may be bundled in.
    i. Vanguard is asking for extension of the lease (additional 3 years), they want an answer for planning purposes. They are consistent renters. An inconsistency that occurred was due to a hacker. But this was quickly resolved. They have put a lot into the building.
        i. Would be helpful to have a consensus on the board, but will not be an exclusively board decision.
        ii. Rent is increasing– .50/sqft per year…
        iii. Vanguard has put in about 60k of repairs while they have been on campus.

iv. Side discussion– space coordination. May be useful to have coordinated campus use exploration, and take a systematic look at current space use. Aside– kitchen space.

v. **There is consensus on the board that we should renew the lease.** Unanimously looks like a smart decision.

j. The church's account will be going negative– essentially, we will be borrowing from other funds. Question: will we get to a point where we could not pay our obligations? No, we are not close to that.

k. Insurance bill has gone up approximately 30%; everything costs more. We are fortunate, many churches are just getting dropped off of insurance– Climate Change as a common cause.

7. Charges for Task Forces

a. <u>Campus Master Plan</u>:
LINK: Charge to the Task Force for Campus Master Planning 2024

Update on volunteers for this task force.

Volunteers

- Nancy McGuire
- Gerald (Jake) Barkdoll
- Mikaela Renz-Whitmore

- Motion to Approve: Donna
- Second: Andrea
- All in Favor: All

Rev. Bob will serve on this taskforce.
Can one board member join? Yes, William!

b. **<u>Mission Statement</u>:**
LINK: Charge for Mission Statement Task Force 2024

Update on volunteers for this task force.

Volunteers

- Marilyn O'Boyle
- Elizabeth Berrey
- Jane E Hockett
- Jerilyn Bowen

  - Motion to Approve: Chris
  - Second: Carla
  - All in Favor: All

Rev. Bob will serve on this taskforce.
Can one board member join? No one volunteered at this time.

c. **Buildings and Grounds**
LINK: Charge for Buildings and Grounds Task Force.docx

Update on volunteers for this task force.

This is going slowly, but this is moving forward; several people coordinating. Next step is to wait for the summer to end, and then put out an announcement and request.

8. **Committee Updates** **Standing Committees Updates - 2024**
   a. **Membership:**
      i. New August 4th joining event. This happens between services– conversation, brief ceremony. **Chris volunteers.**
      ii. Coffee with the board. New members since the beginning of 2024, around 28 people. 3rd Sunday of every month. Casual and purposeful– invitations, etc. August 18th. **William volunteers.**
   b. **Personnel Committee:**
      i. Baton was officially passed between Geri and Martha. Just getting more people to volunteer and participate
   c. **Rad Gen**:
      i. On track, getting all documents etc ready to go.
      ii. Root beer float Sunday after the 11a service. This was pushed back a little bit, but it is a thank you!
   d. **Landscape**
      i. There is a plan to be looking at a longer term assessment and redesign of some watering systems. Let's be smart about our irrigation plan.

e. **Leadership succession committee**
    i. Still working on recruiting more and different people for committees. Interest in meeting with other groups.
    ii. Name change would have to happen at the annual meeting; the timeline changes as a result. Tabled until November.

Committee leaders：Link to contacts for committee leaders

9. **75th Anniversary Update**

Update 75th Anniver activities 2024-07-16.docx

"Please note the change in the opening date for the History Exhibit in the Social Hall. It has been postponed from August 11th to September 15th and will run to November 5th. The exhibit has been an enormous undertaking and we need more time to organize and hang the show." - Geri Knoebel

Note that with this plan, it does not reach the threshold of pulling Angela out of sabbatical.

10. **Board Member Opportunities for Interaction with Church**

Donna created a proposal.

LINK: Membership Activities Proposal_4_2024 (1).docx

Donna – Coffee with new members likely to begin in July.

11. **Rio Rancho Rotary Club**

Board Member Speaker Request

"The speaker presentation is for 20-25 minutes on Sept. 24th, Tuesday, at noon at Rio Rancho Public School District Office at 500 Laser Rd. N.E., Rio Rancho. A projector for PowerPoint slides is available for the presentation." - Claire Shawhan

Chris volunteers!!

12. **Secretary and VP roles**
    a. EmmaLia found there are no restrictions within the church's bylaws that prevent her from serving both roles.

13. **Recognitions?** “On behalf of the Board…”
    a. Founders day-
    b. Amy Sun- Presentation, also role within the POC group. Andrea will write the thank you.
    c. Sue Spaven - for usher organizing, ushering. William will send it.

Ideas for the future-

    d. Librarian New Member-
    e. Ushers-
    f. Spare Parts-
    g. Nonfiction book group-

14. Board Schedule for 2024

- **3rd Saturday of the month @ 10am** (1.5 - 2 hours)
    - February (virtual), March (in-person), April (virtual), May (in-person), June (virtual), July (in-person), August (virtual), September (in-person), October (virtual). November (in-person), December (virtual).
    - Virtual link is always the same: **https://uuma.zoom.us/j/93108797097**.
    - In-Person meetings at the conference room in the Social Hall.

15. Closing Chalice Words

Volunteer to read:

Daring Vision

We extinguish this chalice flame,
daring to carry forward the vision of this free faith,
that freedom, reason and justice
will one day prevail in this nation and across the earth.

- Maureen Killoran