

UCM Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday December 20, 2016 6:00-8:00pm at Church

Convened: 6:00

Present:

Melinda Moz-Knight, Vice President
Nancy Read, Financial Officer
Will White, Secretary
Joan Javier-Duval, Minister (ET)
Jennifer Payne, Board Member at Large
Paul Hartmann, Board Member at Large
Priscilla Fox, Board Member at Large
Peter Thoms, Planned Giving
Brenda Bean, Planned Giving
Paul Ohlson, Planned Giving

Absent:

Jo Romano, Board President

6:00 Chalice Lighting and Reading

Opening reading: Pooh Book of Quotations A.A. Milne

November Minutes

Final draft of the November minutes were approved as is.

Minister Report

The issue of growth has been an ongoing concern. Discussions are happening around budgeting, staffing, and overall ways to deal with growth especially around the attendance at Sunday services. Joan is convening a meeting of representatives from several committees to discuss Sunday service space challenges on Saturday January 7th from 10-12.

The board discussed ways to communicate to the congregation that the board knows there are often space constraints on Sundays and they're working on addressing the issue. Paul offered to make an announcement from the pulpit on a Sunday in January.

The board made the suggestion of experimenting with two services on a Sunday this church year to feel out what that might be like.

Fireside Chat report

The December meeting didn't happen due to scheduling conflicts. The January fireside chat will be moved from the first Sunday to the second which is the 8th. Will and Nancy will attend.

Board Growth Study report and reminder of next step – Paul and Priscilla

Paul and Priscilla spoke with Hilary Allen of the UUA and got some interesting information about growth studies. UUA has no formal process for doing growth studies but Hilary offered to supply some data on growth trends of UU churches in New England and Nationally.

A next step in the study is to clarify WHY and HOW UCM is currently growing. Hilary Allen provided some information about the why (young minister with a family, strong RE program). Being able to articulate this to the congregation would be useful.

Paul and Priscilla will start to outline a report and will identify any missing information. Paul will talk to Dave Peters of the membership committee to identify some trends in new members over the last year.

Meet with Planned Giving Committee and Update on Stewardship Committee Plans - Peter Thoms, Brenda Bean, Paul Ohlson

Planned giving has been quiet over the last few years but the committee has been meeting and planning. They have met with a consultant to develop a brochure to promote planned giving and to request that people notify the planned giving committee if they have already created a planned gift. The focus of the committee is to get congregants to think about the long-term future of the church.

The Planned Giving Committee will consult with Paul Wallace-Brodeur and fine tune their policy and a description of the committee so it can be added to the financial management policy and the description of committees document. They will bring the updated policy and description to the January board meeting for final approval.

Follow up on Policy and Governance Discussion

Will met with Judith to review the management policies and determine if any were governing policies. Judith felt that all of those policies are operational policies and not governing policies. Will needs to review them.

It was decided that it was not a good use of time to discussing governance without the current board governance policy. Will is going to compare the version that Brenda Bean will send him to the version Joan has and find the most current one.

Other Business

Will sent the board photo to Judith.

Stewardship committee met to finalize the date of the kickoff of the pledge drive. The kickoff event is scheduled for Friday March 17th and the board is strongly encouraged to attend. The pledge drive will end Sunday April 2nd.

There's a CoC meeting on January 10th. Jennifer will attend as a representative of the Board.

8:02 Adjourned