

October 4, 2023

UCM Board Meeting Agenda and Notes

People present: Rev. Joan Javier-Duval; Officers Claudia Clark (President); Ansel Ploog (Vice President); Fran Dodd (Financial Officer); Brenda Bean (Secretary); At-Large Members Steve Gold (Facilitator for this meeting), Hugo Liepmann, Jen Mathews.

4:00 Check-In: How are we doing right now? *We shared events from our days: participating in a meaningful chalice circle, a staff retreat, working outside, etc.*

4:10 Chalice Lighting and Reading: *Claudia lit a chalice while Hugo read from the poem "The River Speaks."*

4:20 Approve Minutes: **For the Aug. 5 minutes**, Fran moved approval, Hugo seconded, and **we agreed**. **For the Sept. 20 minutes**, Ansel moved approval, Fran seconded, and **we agreed**. Brenda then asked if the Board objects to changing Google Living Document to show the agenda and notes as hotlinks instead of long inserts. Joan said the table of contents allows clicking onto the correct inserts via "headers." **Ansel will meet with Brenda to train her to link new minutes to the table of contents in this way.**

4:25 Update from Kitchen Planning Group and FRuuT (any Board decision needed?): *Claudia reported that the Kitchen Planning Group (Claudia, Steve, Janet Poeton, and Scott Hess) has so far been unable to meet.*

Brenda and Fran reported that FRuuT recommends replacement of the elevette in the current location with an ADA-compliant – though still small - elevator.

Fran also told the Board that Barbara Conrey has proposed a ramp to go from the Chancel, through the Sanctuary, to the class/meeting rooms in the back addition. The ramp is similar to designs discussed during Building For the Future (BFF), this time beside the pulpit (not the piano). FRuuT thinks such a ramp might help people who are concerned about accessibility feel comfortable continuing with the current location for the new elevator rather than insisting on a location in the back addition.

Ramp costs have not yet been estimated but FRuuT heard one company expects the new elevator itself will cost \$42,000; Barbara is pursuing a second bid. There will also be installation costs (maybe \$5,000) and costs for removal of the old elevette.

*Claudia said UCM has applied for an Intervention Grant from the Partnership for Sacred Places (partnered with the Preservation Trust of Vermont) for **up to** \$50,000 to help with replacement of the elevator.*

The Board discussed whether the new elevator would be "extendable" if the building is raised; it is because the controls will already be on the first floor, no longer in the basement.

*Steve asked about the UCM Flood Recovery Fund. Fran reported on the \$37,000 already spent and the \$94,000 of expenditures still expected (**including for the elevators**); there are an estimated \$131,000 in total losses and repairs (with a few things missing). The total income is \$120,000 (\$10,000 insurance reimbursement, \$50,000 UUA grant, \$60,000 donations), not counting the possible Intervention Grant or UCM's Long-term Invested Funds (LTIF).*

*Board members commented that the elevator is critical for ongoing use of the church, and being forced by the flood to upgrade to an ADA-compliant version is a blessing. **Ansel moved, Hugo seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to give FRuuT permission to replace the elevator.***

Further updates from FRuuT: Joan said the fire alarm panel was repaired and worked today during a false alarm caused by construction dust; it caused the Fire Dept. to arrive! And Bryce confirmed a couple of hours ago that the LiveStream is working! We still need volunteers for the moving party scheduled for Oct. 7.

4:40 Identify Board Member to Attend Committee of Chairs First Mtg. and Beyond (3/year): 3rd Tuesday in October, January, and April, 1.5-2 hours each, though October's meeting will probably not happen. **Hugo volunteered, with back-up from Steve if needed.**

4:50 Review and Confirm Board Goals and Tasks for '23-'24: Joan screen-shared and then edited this evolving document in accordance with the Board's discussion. [Access it by clicking on the hotlink.]

5:30 Discussion: Alleviating Joan's Administrative Workload with Consideration of Meredith's End of the Year Letter to the Board: Claudia moved, Hugo seconded, and we all agreed to have the Board enter Executive Session as of 5:27 p.m.; it ended at 5:55 p.m.

5:55 October Letter to the Congregation: Share with the congregation, for transparency? Link to website? Yes – to be published via a Weekly Announcement. Steve will draft the article.

Other Business:

- Thank You Notes: Discussion tabled.
- Next Meeting: Steve and Fran will miss the Oct. 18 meeting. Claudia will develop the agenda and facilitate the meeting.

6:00 Adjourn: Adjournment was moved, seconded, and approved!