March 6, 2024
UCM Board Meeting Agenda *and Notes*

<u>People present:</u> *Rev. Joan Javier-Duval; UCM Board Officers Claudia Clark (President), Ansel Ploof (Vice-President), Fran Dodd (Financial Officer), Brenda Bean (Secretary); At-Large Board Members Steve Gold, Hugo Liepmann, and Jen Matthews; and Guest Steve Finner (attending as a member of the Finance Committee).*

4:00 Check In – *We've been experiencing some humor around politics, mud season anxiety and adventures, being professionally "scammed," getting caught up with church business; anxiety about the heavy rain and potential flooding, walking outdoors with the dog, appreciation for the early redwing blackbirds and year-round Carolina wrens.*

4:05 Chalice Lighting and Reading – *Claudia read from <u>The Good Ancestor</u> by Roman Krznariz. Chapter 2, "The Marshmallow and the Acorn," is about our brains not being well wired for long-term planning.*

4:15 Approve Board Minutes Feb. 21, 2024 – *Steve moved and Ansel seconded approval of these minutes, to which **the Board agreed.***

4:20 Annual Pledge Drive Update – *Ansel reminded us that the pledge drive officially ends March 17. She asked that we make our Stewardship calls as agreed and try to get all the pledges in by then.*

4:25 Review of Preliminary Budget Options – *Joan asked the Board to further clarify its philosophy toward use of the Long-Term Invested Funds (LTIF). There are differing points of view within the Finance Committee and the congregation. **The Board reviewed and revised its position as stated in the Feb. 21 Board minutes, expressing preference for assigning all of the LTIFs (maximum = 5%) that will be used for the annual budget to the Capital Budget, with none to the General/Operating Budget.** This might be especially important if certain expenses (such as new flood insurance, also AV production equipment costs) are included in the Capital Budget.*

4:55 Climate Resilience Update – We *(Steve and Brenda with help from Hugo) will continue to staff a table in the Vestry. Joan suggested using some worship time in a small group activity to talk together and/or ask for congregants' written ideas. We might also meet with small group ministries for short discussions. **Brenda will (did) draft an article about the Board's Climate Resilience Project for the church's Spring Newsletter.***

5:00 Delegate Selection Update – *We discussed that people have not yet volunteered to be delegates for GA. **Joan will set aside time to talk about this during her fourth/last Article II workshop**. Steve Finner remarked that delegates must make informed votes not only about Article II but also about other business. For instance, this year there will be a Resolution of Immediate Witness to protest Israel's invasion of*

Gaza. ***Steve Gold offered to (and did) draft the next monthly newsletter from the Board and to focus it upon delegation to GA*** *(reflecting discussion at 5:10 p.m., too)**.***

5:05 Board Approval (to pursue grants for kitchen renovation) – *Claudia reported that Meredith Warner has identified a couple of relevant grant opportunities and has offered to work with Claudia, Janet Poeton, and Barbara Conrey to apply on behalf of UCM.* ***We agreed this small group can proceed as long as the Board is kept well-informed.***

5:10 Annual Meeting: Date, Elections (below), Budget, Timeline, Other? – ***The Board agreed to officially schedule the Annual Meeting for Sunday May 19. Brenda will (did) ask Emily to put it on the UCM calendar.***

We discussed whether/how to have the congregation at Annual Meeting ratify or "charge" the delegates to GA. ***We decided to hold a ceremony*** *during which the Board will ask the congregation to approve the Board's selection of delegates to represent UCM at GA; the Board will also ask the delegates to agree to represent UCM in ways that honor and uphold the UCM Mission Statement.*

At some future time, if the Board proposes changes to the Bylaws, one change could be to clarify the extent to which the Board may represent the congregation, as at GA or in public forums. We are not ready to propose any Bylaw changes at this Annual Meeting.

5:20 Board Member Elections – *Ansel is willing to continue to be Vice-President and Brenda is willing to continue to be Secretary. Commitments were not made for the officer positions of President or Financial Officer.* ***Brenda will (did) submit an article to the Weekly Announcements to seek volunteers for the Board.***

5:30 Review Board Goals for 23/24 (See Below) -
5:40 Review Housekeeping Items (See Below) –
5:50 March 20 and April 3rd Meetings - who to handle - Claudia has surgery next week and will be out for a month. ***Ansel will facilitate the Board meeting for March 20. Steve Gold will facilitate the Board meeting for April 3, when the ET will meet with the Board*** *to discuss a draft budget for FY2025 based upon the pledges made.*

6:01 ***Adjourned!***