

May 1, 2024
UCM Board Meeting Agenda

People present: Rev. Joan Javier-Duval; UCM Board Officers Claudia Clark (President and facilitator for this meeting), Ansel Ploog (Vice-President), Fran Dodd (Financial Officer), Brenda Bean (Secretary); At-Large Board Members Steve Gold, Hugo Liepmann, Jen Matthews; and guest UCM Member Paul Ohlson.

4:00 p.m. Check In: *Lots of yard work; positive medical visits; good Committee of Chairs meeting last night; museum visit with family; recovering from exhaustion; anxiety on multiple fronts.*

4:15 p.m. Chalice Lighting and Reading – *While others retrieved and lit the chalice, Claudia read from an article in the New York Times about “What makes a society more resilient? Surviving famine, war, and climate change - the climate is our biggest weak spot.”*

4:20 p.m. Approval of April 17th Board Meeting Minutes – *Steve moved and Hugo seconded that the minutes be approved; the Board agreed.*

4:25 p.m. UCM Climate Reliance Project Update – *Steve and Brenda reported about meeting with Paul Ohlson to discuss this project and a need for the Board to embed it in a clear and widely participatory process of congregational decision-making. They ended up brainstorming about long-range planning to help UCM carry out its mission 10, 20, 50 or more years into the future.*

Paul shared his current thinking with the Board:

- *How can UCM be resilient beyond flood resilience (fires? high winds?), even beyond Climate Resilience – e.g., considering community demographics, church membership, the economy, politics?*
- *Do we know now what we need?*
 - *What is motivating people today?*
 - *What do they want in their lives (for example, as parents) that UCM might be able to address?*
 - *Ask them: “(How) does the UCM mission speak to you?”*
- *Does the congregation still rally around the building?*
 - *Paul has become ambivalent about proceeding to study options for the building without first looking into the broader context.*
 - *He wants the Board to explore if guidance is available from the UUA for helping congregations make extremely difficult decisions. (Joan affirmed the UUA has put out guidance related to Climate Preparedness.)*

Joan said that after more than two years of being remote, UCM is a different community now. There is a different context and might be different visions and priorities. Though most everyone at church knows UCM’s Mission, they may never have heard of UCM’s Vision. She agrees with the importance of identifying what the congregation is called and excited to do and be. A full 360-review could look at the congregation’s strengths and opportunities to grow, deepen. [For instance, when we consider climate and congregational resilience, we might want to extend ourselves to wonder who is out of electricity or in need of food and how the church building and community can be resources to help those in crisis.] The unexpected might emerge, and gaining a good understanding of what is important to one another will help stave off divisiveness.

The Board supported the idea of asking/assessing what people need/value, followed by developing strategies/action steps to meet those needs and carry out those values. (Joan reminded us that the staff and space at UCM are tools/resources for meeting the needs and carrying out the values.)

The Board agreed this planning should begin with the Board's next Annual Retreat (in late summer, 2024). Meanwhile, Claudia will amend her draft Annual Report for the Governing Board and say in it (also during the Annual Meeting) that the Board has realized Climate Resilience is part of a broader/deeper set of issues. Thus, next year the Board will begin to assess/explore climate resilience within the context of "congregational resilience."

4:45 p.m. Plan Annual Meeting:

- ***The Warning will include the Agenda to describe the business to be voted upon.***
- ***236 is the certified number of active members so the quorum (25%) is 59.***
- ***There will be a presentation from the Board (by Claudia) about elevator replacement, kitchen restoration, and the Climate Resilience Project.***
- ***There will be a presentation from the Executive Team (ET) and later recognition of volunteers.***
- ***The budget vote for the General Fund will include approval of flexibility for the Executive Team to assign the salaries as needed to accomplish the tasks of the Congregational Administrator, Congregational Office Assistant, and Bookkeeper and Payroll services.***
- ***Board Nominees – The Board discussed potential nominees for election to the Board. (Subsequently, fortunately, Steve Grunewald, Emily Seiffert, and Jeremy Beaudry agreed to be nominated! The number, timing, and duration of FY25 Board meetings will be re-negotiated with new members.)***
- ***Five people have agreed to serve as UCM delegates to the UUA General Assembly (GA): Elaine Ball, Judith Hinds, Jen Matthews, Jim Phinney, Ginny Sassaman. Steve moved and Hugo seconded to approve these delegates, which the Board approved (with Jen abstaining.) We will ask the congregation to affirm these people as delegates to represent the UCM mission.***

Assign Tasks:

- ***Steve agreed to be nominated and, if elected, serve as Moderator. (He will make sure discussion of amendments continues until done; that discussion cannot be "called.")***
- ***Ansel will send the minutes from the 2023 Annual Meeting to Brenda (done) for inclusion in the Annual Report (also done!).***
- ***To guide the meeting, especially the voting protocols and budget discussion, Claudia will develop Power Point slides, which will be reviewed by Joan and Fran (all done).***
- ***Fran will present the General Fund budget. Finance Committee Chair Scott Hess and Rev. Joan will also be available to help answer questions about the budget.***

5:50 p.m. Time for Ministerial Business: We voted to go into and then to come out of Executive Session to discuss personnel issues.

6:20 p.m. Adjourned

[Brenda will be gone for the May 15 meeting; she hopes someone else will take the minutes.]