

UCOT Board Meeting

July 18, 2020

1 P.M. via Zoom

Members present: Chuck Fawns, Bob Aubrecht, Barbara Scott, Mimi Owensby, Margot Coleman, Joe Mazza, Bette Myerson, Dennis Scott

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 PM with the lighting of a candle by Mimi.

Opening Words (Mimi) – Mimi's words were Rainer Maria Rilke, I Love the Dark Hours of my Being.

II. Minutes of June Meeting (Margot) – The August pianist will be Kim Backum. The minutes were approved as corrected.

III. Treasurer's Report (Bette) – Pledges are down a little bit and as the expenses are also down, we are still \$1,000 in the black. As the CDs become due, we are planning to transfer the balances to Nusenda Credit Union. Bette has a meeting on Monday with them. Their rate is 1.34% for a 6-month CD, which is slightly higher than Edward Jones. Also, Bette believes that Nusenda is more in line with UUA values. The Treasurer's report was approved as presented.

IV. Continuing Items

- a) UCOT CARES follow-up (Bette) – we are still at \$14,492 from the congregation but Bette believes there will be more to come.

V. New Items

- a) Campaign to find a replacement the president of the board before annual meeting in February of 2021

The board decided to put a small search committee together to investigate possible replacements for Barbara. The decision was that a committee be formed by 7/31/20 and will include Bob, Joe and Chuck; Joe will Mary Gray. The board would like them to have a meeting before the next board meeting.

- b) Discussion of Gary's ministerial report and the expulsion of Todd Eklof from the UUMA. There were a lot of opinions regarding this issue. Part of the board is very passionate and would like to do something so that our feelings about what is happening be known to the executive level of the church which includes their response to Todd Eklof's book. There are others who feel that we need to stay out of the organizational politics because we are a small congregation and are very far away from the seat of power. It was decided to ask some questions of some people who might have a better idea of what is going on. Barbara is going to be speaking with the Secretary of the Mountain Desert District, and Chuck has offered to speak with Christine Robinson.

- c) Screening of Sally's film, *Nurturing the Spirit of Life*, so we can all watch it together – Margot offered to call Sally and try to schedule some possible dates for screening her film. Barbara would like one of the times to be in the afternoon at the time and day that the Women's Group used to meet. It was also suggested that another date should be the 5th Sunday in November, which falls on Thanksgiving weekend. It was also suggested that we find a third time for a filming which would take place in the evening.
- d) August's 5th Sunday – The first meeting will introduce the members to the Chautauqua model and discuss the types of subjects that might be considered. The meeting will try to recruit a working group which will be responsible for future projects. The first meeting of the actual group will likely be in 2021 and will probably be virtual as it gives more versatility. The meetings will be open to the community at large and not just the UCOT congregation.

VI. Committee Reports

- a) Service Calendar – Bob will let the congregation know at tomorrow's service that we will continue to have our services on Zoom. Rachel will be overseeing tomorrow's service from Martha's home so that we will be able to have music.

Kim Backum is scheduled to play two songs at the second service in August.

- b) Small Groups – Chuck said the men's group usually has 11 or 12 people and they are going well. Some of the members are having difficulty with Zoom.

The Hope Group meets every 2 weeks and is currently reading Being Wise.

The Women's group has been temporarily cancelled but is open to anyone who might want to organize the group again.

- c) Sharing Circles – Gary is going to do a circle on Zoom and see how it goes.

VII. Closing Words (Bette) - Bette read May We Be Like Penguins by Marian Kelner.

The next meeting will be on August 15, 2020, on Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Margot Coleman

Secretary