

UCOT Board of Director's Meeting

September 12, 2020

3:00 PM via Zoom

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

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 PM.

Agenda

- I. Opening Words – Dennis was not present so Joe recited some of the words from the 23rd Psalm
- II. Minutes of August Meeting – Margot
The minutes were approved as presented by unanimous vote
- III. Treasure's report – Bette

We are well in the black. Pledges are slightly behind as a lot of people pay at the end of the year. The treasurer's report was accepted as presented by unanimous vote.

- IV. Continuing Items
 - a) Gadfly/UUMA feedback (Chuck)

Chuck has spoken to a number of people regarding the situation which Munro and Gary brought to our attention. While there are a few things happening at the leadership level of the UUMA which some people are concerned about, the consensus is that we continue to monitor the situation and stay out of it for the time being.

- b) Planning the service around UCOT Nurturing the Spirit film, November 15, 2020 (all)

November 15th would normally be our Fall Harvest feast day. Since we won't be able to meet in person and share a meal together, It has been decided that after the film which Sally has prepared for the congregation, we will share reminiscences about the church, how it was founded, early days, etc. The board will prepare the congregation so that they can have time to think about events or experiences that they would like to share. Chuck and Marsha will be

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given time to talk about how the church came into being and Gary and Munro will also be given time to give their views.

c) Presidential Search Committee Report (Bob, Chuck, Joe)

Bob was kind enough to agree to replace Barbara under the following conditions:

- 1) His presidency will be for a 2-year term
- 2) He will step down as chair of the Finance and Stewardship Committee
- 3) He will not involve himself with the UUMA
- 4) He will be part of but not organize the 5th Sunday Chautauqua presentations

The board agreed to his terms and he will take over the presidency when Barbara's term is over which will be at the Annual Meeting in late January or early February.

d) UCOT Cares II (all)

We are hoping to have another matching fund drive although it is questionable that there will be another stimulus package. There is some suggestion regarding a large bequest to St. James which will fund the Food Pantry into the future without help from other organizations. It was decided that before we make any decisions, Bette will contact the Food Pantry and find out what is happening there. If this information is correct, then our funds can be shared among El Pueblito, Taos Immigrant Allies and Sin Fronteras and the Congregation's Little Food Pantry boxes. This would be separate from the \$200 already slated through the Charitable Giving Committee and would help defray some of the personal contributions currently being made by our members. Members of the board will contact these organizations and determine what their activities are and how much need there is. Evidently, El Pueblito has had an increase of 50-100% of those who need food. As we have talked about in earlier meetings, we will have matching funds of \$4,000 from the church surplus to meet \$4,000 from the congregation. It was decided to continue the even distribution of the funds depending on the information we get from the three organizations.

V. New Item

- a) November 29, 2020 (fifth Sunday) program or just suspend that day

It was decided with input from Joe and Barbara that a program centered on Hope would be appropriate because it will be after the election. Joe said that he has been spending some time thinking about hope and preparing some thoughts. He feels that it is important to help the congregation in sharing their feelings about hope.

- b) Next year's programming for 2nd and 4th Sundays including Yvonne Hayes' comments.

Barbara shared that there is no longer a team for the circle topics. She suggested that the format be changed from a circle to a council in which everyone is invited. This format will foster community, patience, open-mindedness, decency, and harmony. This will still require a facilitator, but instead of necessitating a script, there will be prompts in case there is a lack of input. This will be on Zoom and people will be speaking instead of writing. It will still be necessary to find people to help develop topics.

- c) Discuss raises for Gary, Munro and Rachel

The discussion regarding raises for our employees including Rachel, Martha, Gary and Munro was spirited. Bob said it was reasonable to consider a raise tied to inflation. It was decided that Martha receive \$130.00 per service and that Rachel be raised to \$32.50 per hour. Both Gary and Munro will be increased to \$800/month.

VI. Committee Reports

- a) Music – Michael Verga will be performing at our October 18th service. On September 27th Sue Cerulean and Becky Reardon will be performing in place of a Circle.

- b) Charitable Giving Committee – Mimi told the board that the committee is now supporting one of the Little Food Pantry boxes and that it costs each one of us between

\$30 and \$50 per week. It was decided that it is reasonable for the Church to help pay for the new project at a cost of between \$1500 and \$2000 per year.

- c) Small groups – Chuck mentioned that the Men's Group is having a Planning Committee meeting.

VII. Closing Words (Chuck)

Chuck read from a book called Speaking Poems a poem called "A Place for Conservatives".

The meeting was adjourned at 5:38.

The next meeting is October 17, 2020 at 1:00 PM.

