

UCOT Board Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2022 at 3:00 pm via Zoom

- I. **Attendance** - present were Bob Aubrecht, Chuck Fawns, Emily Gillispie, Joe Mazza, Mimi Owensby, Dennis Scott and Be Scott.
- II. **Opening Words** – Be read a passage from Ralph Waldo Emerson from the back of our hymnal, #531.
- III. **Minutes of the June Meeting** – Approved as written - includes Be's updates.
- IV. **Treasurer's Report** – Approved as written. During a discussion of what the budget item Program Costs means, Bob suggested that the \$100 currently in Program Costs be moved to the Special Speakers line item, currently zero. Then Micah Roseberry, our Fifth Sunday speaker on July 31st, can be paid a \$100.00 honorarium from the Special Speakers budget item.
- V. **Continuing Items**

a) **2022 Service and Circles Schedule** – Joe reported that Gary is going to be on vacation in Italy in October, so Munro will deliver a sermon on 10/2 in his place. There was a question as to whether Munro was also going to deliver a sermon on his regularly scheduled date of 10/16. Bob will check if Munro and Gary made any arrangements for Gary filling in for Munro as a result of the change. Be suggested Joe deliver the sermon on 10/16, if that date is now open.

There was discussion about UCOT members' unwillingness to volunteer for church needs. Joe suggested that Bob talk to Gary about doing a series of sermons on community, member involvement, etc. Bob explained he has spoken to Gary on at least two separate occasions about this and that Gary was not very enthusiastic to do so. Joe volunteered to speak to Gary about this.

b) **Return to In-person Services** – Emily reported that she had viewed the service on 7/17 remotely and that there were a few problems with it:

- The computer camera needs to be moved to the lay leader when he or she is speaking, to Martha when she is playing the piano, and to the individual speakers during Joys and Sorrows or visitor introductions. Rachel suggested getting a lazy susan to make it easier to swivel the computer camera as needed.
- The sound quality overall was poor. Joe purchased a repeater to boost the Internet signal and a webcam to try to improve the sound quality. A majority of the Board felt that speakers at the podium could remove their masks, which will also help improve the sound quality for the speakers. Joe will communicate to the ministers and lay leaders this protocol change, and remind them that once their speaking parts at the podium are complete, masks should be put back on immediately. Lay leaders should also mention as part of their script that anyone streaming remotely should provide feedback to Rachel. Joys and Sorrows speakers will use a microphone on a stand, which should help additionally help with the audio quality.

For the July 31st fifth Sunday program with Micah Roseberry, no live streaming will be provided, but it will be recorded and put on the website. Bob will bring a tripod.

Circles are not requiring masks at this time. During services, masks will be made optional. The Board will continue to monitor the Covid situation in Taos, which if it worsens may require a return to a mask requirement. Bob will write-up this protocol change for inclusion in the weekly email and the newsletter.

c) Search committee for the next Board president – The committee now consists of Joe, Bette, and Mya. Bob will host an initial meeting Friday at 2:00 pm via Zoom. He will have no further involvement with the committee after the initial meeting.

d) Dinners for Six update – Chuck said that he's been unable to contact Nancy or Jim to determine when Dinners for Six might start. There has been an email address change for the Schultzes. Chuck will provide the new email address to Be and Emily, for the directory and for the Charitable Giving Committee minutes respectively.

VII. Committee Reports

- Charitable Giving Committee – Mimi reported that committee members are now giving reports on our various charities. Regarding our Little Free Pantry box, the committee had suspended stocking it for a week to try to discourage a woman who has been taking everything out of the box. Del had added a note to the inside of the box addressing her personally. We have resumed food deliveries to our box.
- Music committee – Mimi reported that the Music Committee will try to get Julie (harp player) for some time in the fall.
- Stewardship and Finance Committee – Bob reported that the committee consists of Bob, Jim Schultz, and Dianne Frost. Annual pledge drive activities will occur during September and October.
- Sharing Circles – Be mentioned that, as Amy Sletteland is moving away in September, Martha Grossman is being recruited to replace her as Circles Coordinator. Joe reported that Dave has indicated there is a plumbing problem in the building. He will communicate with Dave to ensure that the water is turned on by 10:00 am and turned off again after the conclusion of the circle meeting on 7/24.
- Small Groups update – Chuck reported that the men's group continues to meet monthly, the Hope group continues to meet on the first and third Thursdays of the month, and that a Dream group is forming, to be headed by Adele Windsor, to learn about and discuss dreams.

VII. Additional Agenda Items

- Should fifth Sunday programs be continued after 2022? It was generally felt that putting these programs together takes a lot of time and effort. Given the lack of volunteers for church activities, it may not be viable going forward. Bob does not plan to continue heading up this committee after 2022.
- The Tempo has discontinued publishing church events. Be learned that the Taos News has reorganized the Que Pasa section of the paper so that church events are no longer included, but we can post UCOT event information online. Emily mentioned that since the Taos News prices for advertising are rather exorbitant, the best solution might be to continue posting our events online in this way, at least for the time being.

- At the June UCOT Board meeting, it was suggested that a review of all committees be held so that new committees can be formed as needed, and old committees no longer of any use can be discontinued. The Board agreed that this item should be deferred until 2023.
- X. Closing Words** – Chuck read two poems by Rick Masten: “The Second Half” and “Waterfalls and Tigers”.
- XI. Next Meeting** – August 20, 2022 at 1:00 pm via Zoom.