

# UCOT Board Meeting Minutes

August 20, 2022, at 1:00 pm via Zoom

- I. **Attendance** - present were Bob Aubrecht, Chuck Fawns, Emily Gillispie, Joe Mazza, Mimi Owensby, Be Scott, and Dennis Scott.
- II. **Opening Words** – Bob read a quote from Salman Rushdie.
- III. **Minutes of the July Meeting** – Approved as written.
- IV. **Treasurer’s Report** – Approved as written.
- V. **Continuing Items**

a) **2022 Service and Circles Schedule** – Bob reported that Munro will be delivering his sermon on the fifth Sunday, 10/30, and that the fifth Sunday program is now scheduled for 10/16.

Joe asked about the Christmas Day service which Jeanne is scheduled for. It was felt that there may be little attendance on that day, since so many go out of town to celebrate the holiday. Christmas Day falls on the fourth Sunday of the month, normally an in-person circle day. It was decided that Be would approach Jeanne to see if she’d like to lead the sharing circle on that day instead.

Mimi asked about the 11/20 Fall Harvest date, since no minister is scheduled for that day, and no one has volunteered to coordinate the Fall Harvest meal. Mimi reported that guest musicians are scheduled for that day. It was decided that either Gary (who might be short one service due to some of the previous swapping with Munro) or Jeanne could do that service, which would not include a Fall Harvest meal but would include a new member in-gathering ceremony, which Bob would lead. Be will ask Jeanne about providing a message for that service.

Chuck mentioned that for the Day of the Dead ceremony, he might be leading it instead of Marsha, since Marsha is scheduled for surgery around that time.

b) **Return to in-person services** - David Owensby will do the live streaming for tomorrow’s service (8/21), since Rachel is out of town that day.

c) **Search committee for the next Board president** – Joe reported that the committee had asked some potential candidates if they were willing to be the next UCOT Board president, and that the only one willing to consider it was Emily. The next step for the committee is to conduct an interview with her, which Joe has recused himself from. Chuck, Be, Mya, and Bette will interview Emily to assess several factors, including her vision for the future of the church.

Bob also mentioned that he might not be able to complete his current term as President, since he is scheduled for multiple surgeries this fall. Emily said that with Mimi as the vice-president, we would all pull together as a team, if that were to be the case.

There will also be a group convened to discuss the future direction of the church and the formation of a membership committee. The group consists of Chuck, Mimi, Be, Emily, and Joe. Chuck will coordinate a meeting date and time. Emily will create a job description for the membership committee chairperson, whose responsibilities will include making contact with

guests at our services or circles, maintaining the member / friends directory, maintaining the email list, creating name tags, and membership in-gathering ceremonies.

**d) Dinners for Six update** – Chuck said that the delay in response from Nancy and Jim was because his emails were going into spam folders. Two dinners groups, one with five and one with six, have been formed, and both are planning August dinners. Substitutes are available if needed.

## **VI. New Items**

**a) 2023 Pledge Drive** – Bob reported that the time frame will be during the month of September, wrapping up in October. The packets to be mailed out will include a cover letter that Bob will write, the 2023 preliminary budget from Joe, a pledge form, and a return envelope. Bob will also provide a script to be used when contacting pledging members. It is our hope that some meetings will be done in person or by phone, and that we can get from pledging members suggestions, comments, and other feedback related to the congregation in general.

The Board divided up the pledging members as follows:

- Bob will contact Dianne Frost and Bob Silver, Lucy Jackson and Fanda Bender, and Jill and John McLaughlin.
- Chuck will contact Donna Collins, Chuck and Carol Doughty, Jim and Nancy Schultz, and Judith Bronner
- Joe will contact Margot Coleman, Mary Gray, Yvonne Hayes, and Ken Harrold
- Mimi will contact Mark and Irene Goodman, Mya Coursey and Wally Cox, and Marjorie Luckey and Sid Bender
- Be will contact Marianne Furedi, Linda Malm, Sally Savage, and Jane Stark
- Emily will contact Cristy Holden, Jeanne Montclair, Gael and Ty Minton, and Elaine Taylor
- Dennis will contact Barbara and Michael (Smokey) Martinez, Caryle Zorumski, and Jay Bunker
- Mary Walker, Sara Sautter and Ron Johnston, Kristin Wolf, and the new couple will be sent a letter only (no visit or other contact). Be will get the new couple's names and contact info.

On Sunday, 8/21, assignments were changed via email as follows:

- Bette will now have Lucy Jackson and Fanda Bender, Elaine Taylor, and Margot Coleman.
- b) Review of UCOT committee structure** – Emily reported that the existing committees included Charitable Giving, the Music Committee, and the Caring Team headed up by Marianne and Linda. She mentioned that a membership committee was important and Be agreed. Be and Rachel between them are currently fulfilling those functions. This will be discussed further during the meeting regarding future church direction that Chuck is organizing (see V.c above).
- c) Fifth Sunday Programs in 2023** – Bob reported that the existing committee members (Bob, Emily, and Gael) were strongly in favor of continuing the fifth Sunday programs. Emily felt that they are valuable not only from as a learning experience, but also to further community inclusion.

**d) 2023 Preliminary Budget** – Joe reported that the income was based on the pledges for this year, which may or may not be accurate for 2023. In the expense category, he noted that the rent is for a full year or in-person services; the ministers, Martha, and Rachel were to receive 5% salary increases; the honorariums were to be \$300 per guest minister (defined as those ministers who are not under contract with us), with an estimate of 3 to 4 services provided by guest ministers. The ministers' expense includes mileage, stipend, the 5% increase in salary, and 12 newsletter articles. For special speakers, there was nothing to estimate, but the Board thought that \$100 per speaker, 3 speakers per year, would be a good estimate. Special music was estimated at the same as last year. Joe requested a budget from the Charitable Giving committee for next year and registered his opposition to automatic annual pay increases.

The budget for 2023 looks to be approximately \$10,000 in the red at this time. Joe suggested that expenses could be cut in the following areas:

- Should we forgo pay increases for employees (ministers plus Martha and Rachel)?
- Can Joe and Emily do all the open / close functions and someone else could do the live streaming so that Rachel does not need to bill us for Sundays at all?
- Can the Charitable Giving Committee decide on a lower budget of donations?

#### **VII. Committee Reports**

- Charitable Giving Committee – nothing to report at this time.
- Music committee – Mimi reported that there will be two musical guests at the 11/20 service.
- Small Groups update – Chuck reported that the men's group has 10 members, two of whom are new; the Hope group has 9 members; and the Dream group has 8 members.
- Sharing Circles – Be mentioned that the group will continue with the hybrid format of one circle being held with Zoom and one circle held in person.

**VIII. Closing Words** – Mimi read from "Life Prayers", from the Women's Environmental and Development Organization.

**IX. Next Meeting** – September 17, 2022, at 1:00 pm via Zoom.