

UCOT Board Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2022, at 1:00 pm via Zoom

- I. **Attendance** – present were Bob Aubrecht, Chuck Fawns, Emily Gillispie, Joe Mazza, Mimi Owensby, Sara Sautter, Be Scott, and Dennis Scott.
- II. **Opening Words** – Dennis read a quote by Joan Daugherty Chittister entitled “Enthusiasm for Life”.
- III. **Minutes of the September Meeting** – Approved as written.
- IV. **Treasurer’s Report** – Approved as written.
- V. **Continuing Items**

a) 2022 Service and Circles Schedule - Joe reported that the lay leader for the service on 11/22 will be Mya, and that the Masons have approved our using the Lodge on 12/24 at 7:00 pm.

b) Planning for the 2023 UCOT Annual Meeting – Joe had sent the annual meeting documents from last year to all Board members. The documents for this year will be sent out digitally and will be displayed on the projector during the annual meeting. Mimi recommended that they be sent out twice: the first time to be on 1/12 and the second time on 1/19. The Board agreed with this recommendation. Based on that schedule, the documents should be finalized no later than Friday, January 6th. They will be sent to Be, who will edit them and then send the final versions to Rachel for distribution on 1/12 in a stand-alone email (not the regular weekly email).

Emily then asked each current Board member whether they planned to continue or to leave the Board. Those staying on include Chuck, Mimi, and Be. Dennis will be leaving the Board as of the annual meeting in 2023. Joe’s second term as Treasurer will be up as of the annual meeting of 2024, and he plans to step down then.

c) Return to in-person services – Joe reported that he and Rachel had met at the lodge to try to correct the sound issue on the live streaming. He explained that they thought the problem was being caused by the sound system speakers and the webcam mike speaker duplicating each other, causing an echo. They tried to connect directly to the sound system mixer, but this didn’t correct the problem. The internet was down at that time also, and Joe asked Dave Cordova to reboot the router, since it is in a room that we don’t have access to.

d) Sara Sautter – membership chair – Sara talked about her vision for membership and for growth. She plans to conduct a workshop in February after the 2/5 service for members. Lunch will be provided for those attending. Sara and Emily will ask Gary to incorporate membership and church involvement into his message on 2/5. Sara asked for a list of members who are no longer attending either services or circles. Emily will work on putting that list together. Sara will prepare a written plan to be presented to the Board at the December meeting on 12/17. This will be added to the December agenda.

e) Masonic Lodge Issues – Joe reported that the door sticking issue had been fixed, but that the smell of gas coming from the stove will not be addressed. He said that Dave Cordova is ok with us contracting with someone for snow removal this winter. Joe will contact St. James to find out who they use, to see if they would like to do ours at the same time since we’re just across the street. He reiterated that we need to be careful to clean up after every service and circle.

f) 2023 Pledge Drive Update – Joe reported that 38 pledge packets had been sent out, of which 4 are new. Of these, 22 have been returned, consisting of 1 that was new, 12 that increased their pledges, 7 that remained the same, and 2 that decreased their pledges

Altogether, the pledges received so far amount to \$20,244. The 2023 preliminary budget requires pledge income of \$27,015, with \$2,000 to be received in plate offerings for a total of \$29,015.

g) Christmas Eve Service – sound system – Joe will train Dennis on how to operate the sound system.

h) Annette Rubin as new Board secretary – A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to present Annette as candidate for Board secretary at the annual meeting on 1/22. Emily will start copying Annette on the meeting minutes.

i) Finance Committee – new chair needed – Bob plans to step down as finance / stewardship committee chair in January. The role of this committee is to assist the treasurer with options for the reserves, and to manage the pledge drive process. This year the Board plus Bette did the contacting of pledging members. It was agreed to postpone reporting on feedback received by members to the November Board meeting.

j) Proposal for the reserves – Bob reported that there are currently \$85,800 in reserves, of which \$15,000 would remain in the checking account. This would leave about \$70,000 available to be invested. Bob proposed that this amount should be invested with Edward Jones in short-term Treasuries, which are currently at rates of over 4 percent. These would be laddered in one, two, and three-year amounts. As each comes due, the amount would be deposited into a money market fund, and from there returned to the checking account at Centinel Bank. He reported that this would produce additional revenue of about \$3,000 per year.

Joe said that traditionally the reserves were about half of the operating expenses for the year, i.e., about \$20,000. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to invest the church reserves with Edward Jones and to reduce the investment amount to \$65,000, in keeping with this policy.

Another motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved that the signatories after the annual meeting would be:

- For the Edward Jones account, Chuck and Emily
- For the checking account at Centinel Bank, Joe, Mimi, and Chuck

VI. Committee Reports

a) Charitable Giving – Mimi had nothing to report at this time.

b) Music – Mimi reported that there will be two musicians on 11/20. No one is yet scheduled for December, but Gael is working on that.

c) Sharing Circles – Be reported that the plate is being circulated at circles now. Attendance has been quite good and last week's circle brought in \$89.

VIII. Closing Words – Chuck read from Daily Meditations from the Dao, “Impermanence”.

IX. Next Meeting – November 19, 2022, at 1:00 pm via Zoom.