

UCOT Board Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2022, at 1:00 pm via Zoom

Meeting id is 982 5332 3759

- I. **Attendance** – present were Bob Aubrecht, Chuck Fawns, Emily Gillispie, Joe Mazza, Mimi Owensby, Annette Rubin, Sara Sautter, Be Scott, and Dennis Scott.
- II. **Opening Words** – Emily read from Reading 434 in the back of the Singing the Living Traditions hymnal.
- III. **Subscription to Soul Matters for worship topics and materials** – Sara explained that a Soul Matters subscription would provide thematic ministry with supporting materials and research on each topic. Be said that it would be ideal for circles since the research time for each circle topic can take several hours. Emily said that it would allow planning for the entire year up front. Emily agreed to set up a Zoom call with Gary, Munro, Jeanne, Doug, Bob, Sara, and herself to take place prior to the December Board meeting. During this call we would see how the ministers felt about using such a subscription to define their topics. The cost for a trial subscription would be reduced from the full \$380 / year.
- V. **October Treasurer's Report** – Approved as written.
- VI. **Continuing Items**
 - a) **2022 Service and Circles Schedule** – Emily reported that there were five Sundays in January beginning with New Year's Day. Emily will reach out to Gary and find out if he would be willing to give a sermon on the holiday. The proposed schedule for January would be: 1/1 Gary, 1/8 first circle, 1/15 Munro, 1/22 annual meeting, and 1/29 second circle. Emily also said that she had not heard back from the ministers regarding their schedule at Las Cruces, so until that happens, the draft calendar can't really be firmed up. Doug also responded that he and Katy would love to come out to Taos. They will look at their calendars and get back to me.
 - b) **Return to in-person services** – Bob said that as the COVID numbers in Taos County had gone up substantially, that masks should be required until at least the end of next month. The Board agreed with this. Chuck said that he would tell Smokey that masks will be required to enter starting tomorrow. The Board also agreed to cancel tomorrow's coffee service, as people would need to take off their masks. Emily will let Margot know about this.
 - c) **2023 Pledge Campaign** – Joe reported that he expected to receive \$30,989 in pledges, over \$3,000 more than previously had been expected.
- VII. **New Items**
 - a) **2023 Draft Budget** – Joe corrected the reported income to \$35,939, which in turn made the deficit decrease to \$2,664. The anticipated interest income from the T-Bills had not been considered in the original. The budget was approved as amended.
 - b) **2023 Annual Meeting Agenda** – Chuck suggested that we add something regarding the rewrite of the seven principles. It was decided not to discuss it, since the rewrite will not be in effect by the time of the annual meeting, Emily said she would ensure that there is a Q & A section included on the agenda.

c) RMD – Emily explained that Required Minimum Distributions from an IRA account are now required by the IRS at age 72½ (formerly 70½). She said that people who are required to take those distributions can donate the amount directly from their IRA account to the church via our Edward Jones account, thus bypassing any tax being withheld. Be suggested that this be added to the annual meeting agenda. Emily will add that and will also write an article for the newsletter prior to January 1st. Bob asked if there was a limit to the amount a person could donate from an IRA to a charitable institution. Emily will ask Becky Roh this question and get back to the Board with the answer.

VIII. Committee Reports

- a) Charitable Giving** – Mimi said the CG Committee had had their last meeting of the year, as the December meeting would be a Christmas luncheon. She also said that the money that was left over in the 2022 budget – around \$350 – was given to the Heart of Taos hotel program for homeless women.
- b) Music** – Mimi reported that there had been no meeting. Joe mentioned that Gael had just had surgery.
- c) Lodge / Masons update** – Joe reported that Dave Cordova had said that the Masons would pay for half the cost of the snow removal. Joe is trying to contact the person that does snow removal for St. James but has not yet gotten a response.
- d) Sharing Circles** – Be reported that things are going very well. There are always between 18 and 23 people attending each week.

IX. Closing Words – Bob read from The Velveteen Rabbit, by Marjorie Waterson.

X. Next Meeting – The meeting was adjourned at 3:09 pm. The next meeting will be held on December 17, 2022, at 1 pm via Zoom.