

# UCOT Board Meeting Minutes

December 17, 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** – Mimi read from Life Prayers by Ted Loder.
- III. **Minutes of November Meeting** – A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the minutes as updated.
- V. **November Treasurer's Report** – Bob asked Joe about the \$3,600 for the Charitable Giving Committee, of which \$2,600 has been spent. Joe explained that last year's CG budget contained a \$400 reserve item, with \$350 remaining. Mimi explained that the committee had voted to donate the remaining money to Dream Tree, where it would go towards providing hotel accommodations for homeless women through Heart of Taos. A motion was made and seconded to approve that the remaining reserve money be given to Dream Tree. Joe felt that as we were \$693 in the red, committees should not have a reserve budget line item. Emily, Dennis, and Bob agreed. The motion was not carried.

Sara volunteered to create a January soup luncheon after the annual meeting. Those staying for lunch would buy a ticket, and the proceeds would then go to Dream Tree in lieu of the CG Committee reserve. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved for this luncheon to take place and that all proceeds would be donated to Dream Tree.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the November treasurer's report as written.

## VI. Continuing Items

- a) **2023 Service and Circles Schedule** – Emily explained that the first three months of 2023 were confirmed, but that the rest of the calendar is a work in progress as vacation schedules etc. are confirmed. Bob said that December 31<sup>st</sup> being a fifth Sunday should be left open, since no Fifth Sunday program will be scheduled on New Year's Eve, and also suggested that the draft calendar indicate the portion that was confirmed at this time. Emily agreed to make these changes and will send out the updated version to the Board.
- b) **Return to in-person services** – Emily volunteered to check the CovidActNow website several days before each service and notify Sara and Margot that if Taos County was green, we would have coffee / snacks, but if it was orange or red, we would not. Joe will let Mya (the lay leader for the 12/18 service) know that an announcement should be made that if people were uncomfortable removing their masks, they could take snacks home to enjoy later.
- c) **2023 Annual Meeting Agenda** – The Board generally approved of the draft agenda. It was decided that Emily would present the 2022 annual meeting minutes to the congregation. She will go over the minutes with Margot in advance to ensure everything is clear. Emily will update the annual meeting agenda document to remove Margot's name and will send out the updated version to the Board. All documents that will be presented at the annual meeting need to be sent to Be no later than 1/14, for review at the 1/14 Board meeting.

## VII. New Items

**a) 2023 Draft Budget** – Joe reported that updates from the previous version were: a) MailChimp fees have increased and b) Fanda’s pledge was removed since she is moving. Bob suggested that the version presented at the annual meeting should include assumptions such as the salary increase being given to our employees. Joe agreed to provide the assumptions. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to approve the 2023 draft budget as written, contingent on updates due to additional pledges that may come in.

**b) Substitute for Joe as sound person for services** – Joe reported that he had not been able to reach David Owensby to find out whether he would be willing to take over the sound system responsibilities or would just be a substitute for Joe. More to come on this.

**c) Gary’s suggestions for coping with loneliness** – Be reported that we need a mechanism to ensure that people are invited to events, particularly those who live alone, and to communicate events to the congregation. Bob suggested the Highway Clean-Up, summer picnics and providing people with rides to and from services and circles. Emily will email Gary asking when a service related to this topic will be delivered and will discuss picnics and rides to church with Sara and Be.

**d) UUA Principles Update** – Chuck reported that he and Chuck Doughty will be bringing the principles update to the attention of the men’s group. Chuck F. wrote an email to Rev. Laurel Hallman, who used to be the minister at First Church in Dallas, and who ran for UUA President last year. She will be having conversations with the new UUA president, Rev. Sofia Bettencourt, who is running unopposed, about the gap between the UUA and local congregations. UCOT is now on the UUA’s radar as wanting to be informed about the changes. Be asked Chuck to read Sara’s comments on the principles in UCOT’s January 2023 newsletter.

**e) New Member Intake Form** – Sara reviewed the welcome letter and the new member intake form. Suggested changes to the intake form were: a) replace the word “marketing” with the words “public outreach”, b) clearly label all optional information being requested as optional, and c) for item 13, change the name of the team to Care Team. The two closed groups, the Dream Group and the Hope Group, will discuss with their respective members whether they will remain closed or will become available for new membership.

It was noted that the Highway Clean-Up twice a year activity was missing from the form. Emily will contact Sara to ask her to add it.

It was agreed that a membership database would be discussed at the February Board meeting.

**f) Event Calendar for 2023** – Due to time constraints, the Board agreed to discuss this at the February Board meeting, as the January meeting will be completely taken up with the annual meeting agenda and supporting documents. Emily and Be will work with Sara to make a few updates (adding picnics, rides to/from church, and the Highway Clean-up) in the meantime.

## VIII. Committee Reports

**a) Charitable Giving** – Nothing to report.

**b) Music** – Nothing to report.

**c) Fellowship** – Dinners for Six is restarting in January. The sign-up deadline was December 15<sup>th</sup>.

- d) Lodge / Masons update** – Joe reported that he has been unable to contact the snow removal contact that St. James gave him. He went over to the Lodge today with his shovel and removed the snow from the parking lot.
- e) Sharing Circles** – Be reported that things are going very well. She is working on forming a group of circle facilitators and providing training.
- IX. Closing Words** – Chuck read from reading #683 by Theodore Parker, from the back of the UCOT hymnal.
- X. Next Meeting** – The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm. The next meeting will be held on January 14, 2023, at 1 pm. Bob recommended that the Board meet in person going forward and offered his dining room as a future meeting place.