

UCOT Board Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2023, at 1:00 pm via Zoom

Meeting id is 979 0569 7987

- I. **Attendance** – present were Bob Aubrecht, Chuck Fawns, Emily Gillispie, Joe Mazza, Mimi Owensby, Annette Rubin, Be Scott, and Dennis Scott.
- II. **Opening Words** – Joe read passages from Still Here by Ram Dass and from Birth and Death by Shantanand Saraswati.
- III. **Minutes of December Meeting** – A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the minutes as updated.
- IV. **December Treasurer's Report** – Joe mentioned that Jeanne had asked whether she would be paid for the Christmas Eve service (Martha was paid for it). A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved that Jeanne would be paid for that service and all services going forward. Joe will update the 2023 budget to include this amount for the guest minister expense line item.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the December treasurer's report as written.
- V. **Continuing Items**
 - a) **2023 Service and Circles Schedule** – Emily reported that Jeanne has agreed to provide a message on 3/5 since Munro is not available. She also said that she'd received a phone call from Doug Inhofe, who thinks he and Katy may come in the summer, although they haven't set a firm date yet.
 - b) **Return to in-person services** – Be will ask Rachel to include a link to the CovidActNow website in all future emails. A green rating will permit us to provide coffee after the service, whereas anything higher will indicate that the coffee service should be cancelled. Emily reported that Sara is going to take over coffee service from Margot for the next three months, and she will train other volunteers.
 - c) **2023 Draft Budget** – Joe reported that he had removed the LFP line item since it is rarely used. Mimi will ask Doug and Barbara M, the LFP donors, if they are OK with this money being put toward the Heart of Taos hotel program. The 2023 budget will be presented at the annual meeting.
 - d) **2023 Annual Meeting Agenda** – Be emailed the Board the final version. There will be a link in the annual meeting email to the documents being reviewed. People can then review them in advance and print them if desired. Be will provide ten printed and collated copies to be available at the meeting as well.
 - e) **2023 Board Members** – Bob listed the slate of new Board members: Emily will be the new President, Mimi will continue as Vice-President, Joe will continue as Treasurer, Annette will be the new Secretary, Be will be a voting at-large member, and Chuck will be ex officio (non-voting). Bob and Dennis will be stepping down from the Board.

VII. New Items

a) New Event Ideas – Emily reported that Sara had submitted a list of event ideas for Board consideration. The list of events that the Board approved are as follows:

- An additional new member in-gathering service will be provided in the spring if needed
- A Memorial Day potluck luncheon
- A July 4th picnic. If Jim and Nancy don't want to host this again, Emily will see if Annette is still willing to host; if not, she will look into renting one of the covered picnic areas from the BLM.
- Blessing of the Animals – Emily will reach out to Gary to see if 9/3 or 10/1 would work.
- Thanksgiving potluck luncheon
- Christmas Eve service on Sunday 12/24

b) Enrichment Class Ideas – Gary and Sara have both volunteered to conduct these types of classes. The Board thought that asking Sara to provide her Happiness class would be a good trial run. Emily will reach out to Sara and find out how many sessions there would be and what the format would be. It was suggested that we conduct these classes from 9:30 – 10:30 at the Lodge, with a thirty minute break for participants before the service begins at 11:00.

c) Live streaming the Annual Meeting – Emily will confirm with Rachel that she can both project documents (on Emily's laptop) and monitor the live streaming (on her own laptop) simultaneously.

d) New Members and Friends Directory – It was agreed that people wanting a copy of the latest directory should contact Be to get a digital copy. Printed copies will not be provided at the annual meeting, and the directory will not be available on our website for security reasons.

e) A Plan for Bad Weather – The Board agreed that a protocol should be in place in case of bad weather that would prevent the ministers from travelling to Taos on their scheduled date. If that was the case, the ministers would contact the President, who would then contact the Board for a decision on whether to cancel the service. Rachel would then be notified to send out an email to everyone saying that the service was cancelled. In addition, a phone tree type of arrangement would be made in which everyone would be sent a text message or called on the telephone to ensure that they are aware of the cancellation. In addition, a sign would be placed on the door stating that the service was cancelled in case anyone was missed.

VIII. Committee Reports

- a) Charitable Giving** – Mimi said that the CG committee will meet on Tuesday 1/17 to discuss the reduced 2023 budget.
- b) Music** – Mimi said that the Music committee will meet on Monday 1/16 to discuss special music and reinstating a small choir as we used to have. Joe reminded the Board that there was only a \$400 budget for the year for special music, of which \$100 would go to the Threshold Choir for the Day of the Dead service.
- c) Fellowship** – Dinners for Six has restarted. Four groups signed up.
- d) Small Groups** – Chuck reported that the Mens' Group is meeting this week, the Dream Group is meeting on Monday 1/16, and the Hope Group is meeting on Thursday 1/19. Be reminded

Chuck that the membership of the Dream and Hope groups should be asked whether they can become open groups once again.

e) **Sharing Circles** – Be reported that everything is going well. The plate amount has dropped because people are pledging. There were 19 attendees at the last circle.

IX. **Closing Words** – Bob read from the Rev. Paige Getty's reflections on the fourth principle. The Board thanked Bob and Dennis for their service as Board members.

X. **Next Meeting** – The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm. The next meeting will be held on February 18, 2023, at 1 pm.