

UCOT Annual Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2023

Chalice Lighting – Be Scott

As we approach our agenda, let us remember that we are doing the work of the congregation. When we do the work of this congregation, we touch lives. When we touch lives, we change the world. May this chalice flame we now kindle remind us throughout our meeting of our ministry and our mission.

Reflections and Overview of the Agenda – Bob Aubrecht

Bob reviewed the highlights of the past year, including:

- the return to in-person services and circles at the Lodge
- the investment of church reserve funds in T-bills, providing us with approximately \$2,450 per year in investment income
- Fifth Sunday programs

The agenda for the meeting was displayed. Bob gave a brief overview of each topic.

Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting – Margot Coleman

Margot asked for any updates to the meeting minutes from last year's annual meeting. It was pointed out that there were just a few minor typos. A motion was made, seconded, and approved by the membership to accept the minutes with those corrections.

2022 UCOT Financials and 2023 Proposed Budget – Joe Mazza

The 2022 UCOT Financials document was displayed. Joe was asked about the negative balance at the end of the year. He explained that our income has been affected by a loss of membership and pledge income, and that this amount is being offset by the church's reserve fund. A motion was made, seconded, and approved by the membership to accept the 2022 UCOT Financials statement.

The 2023 Proposed Budget was then displayed. A motion was made, seconded, and approved by the membership to accept the 2023 Proposed Budget.

2022 UCOT Charitable Giving Committee – Mimi Owensby

The list of charitable organizations that UCOT contributed to in 2022 through the Charitable Giving committee was displayed. Mimi stated that for 2023 the budget was cut to \$3,000, and that the committee was in the process of eliminating a few of the organizations that already have a substantial budget. She also explained that committee members contribute weekly to the Little Free Pantry (LFP) box on Merced near the Taos Net offices. She said that currently two additional volunteers are needed to take Wednesday and Sunday each week. The expense runs around \$30 per week and is fully tax-deductible. In addition, committee members take turns providing dinners to the Men's Shelter on the fourth Friday of each month. The occupants are always extremely grateful, and it is a very good way to directly help the homeless men in our community. One additional volunteer is needed for this effort to keep the rotation at once every four months.

2022 Membership and Connections Committee – Sara Sautter

Sara reported that nine new members had joined during the new member in-gathering ceremony, and that four additional members joined today. Sara and Sally are working on designing a new welcome

brochure for guests and new members. Coffee service has been restarted, which Sara is currently running. A few additional volunteers are needed for that. The UCOT book club has been started, adult enrichment classes are in the works, and there will be a return of the UCOT Women's Group.

2022 Fifth Sunday Programs – Gael Minton

Gael stated that the purpose of these sessions is education on various topics for the congregation. She has served on this committee for the past two years with Bob, and later was joined by Fanda Bender and Emily Gillispie. The topic agreed upon for last year was Small Scale Agriculture and Local Food Sources, which was a continuation of the Land, Water, and Forest Resources topic from the previous year. There will be a poll to get new topics for 2023. There will be three fifth Sundays in 2023, and they may all be of a theme or not; it depends on the kinds of suggestions received.

UCOT Circles Program – Be Scott

Be said that when the circles returned to in-person at the Lodge, there were 23 participants on that first day! She thanked everyone that is a current participant, and said that the average attendee count has been from 15-20 attendees. She also explained that the second Sunday of the month was on a specific topic and the fourth Sunday was an open topic. She reported that there were 11 volunteers to facilitate the meetings for 2023. Annette said that it is a wonderful way to get to know other members.

Presentation of New Board and Election – Bob Aubrecht

The new Board members consisting of Emily Gillispie, President; Mimi Owensby, Vice-President; Joe Mazza, Treasurer; Annette Rubin, Secretary; Be Scott, Member at Large; and Chuck Fawns, Ex-Officio, were presented. A motion was made, seconded, and approved by the membership to elect the new Board members.

Questions, Comments, and Suggestions – Bob Aubrecht

Julian asked what the church mission statement was. Bob read it to the audience.

JoAnn asked if there were regular greeters. Chuck explained that Dennis and Michael normally did that, and that he was a backup in case one of them couldn't attend. JoAnn said that in her previous UU church, the greeters were very influential in greeting visitors and making them feel welcome. She and Lee volunteered to call people to get additional greeter volunteers.

Closing Reflection and Extinguishing of the Chalice – Chuck Fawns

We extinguish this flame, but not the light of truth, the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment. These we carry in our hearts and minds until we are together again.

Adjournment – Bob Aubrecht

The Board thanked Bob for his past service. Bob asked for a motion to adjourn, which was made, seconded, and approved by the membership. All were invited to the soup luncheon / fundraiser which followed.