

UCOT Board Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2023
Meeting id is 979 0569 7987

- I. **Attendance** – present were Chuck Fawns, Emily Gillispie, Joe Mazza, Mimi Owensby, Annette Rubin, and Be Scott.
- II. **Opening Words** – Joe read a quote by Charles F. Glassman about finding the compassion to see the light in others.
- III. **Minutes from the March Meeting** – Be moved to accept the minutes and Joe seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Treasurer’s Report** – Donations are higher than usual due to plate donations. Expenses are mostly within budget. Our one-year treasury note is generating income. One person increased their pledge when they sent in their Required Minimum Distribution due to the tax benefit. Emily moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report, Be seconded and it passed unanimously.
- V. **Items for Discussion**
 - a. Highway Cleanup will be May 13. We’ll meet at the Lodge at 10:00 and carpool.
 - b. Donna Collins has agreed to do the Burning Bowl ceremony on 12/31. Chuck will confirm with her.
 - c. Services – There were 50 people at a recent service, causing a parking lot problem. We discussed whether more gravel is needed, but decided the excessive mud was a rare occurrence. We’ll monitor the situation and come up with a parking diagram if needed.
 - d. Circles – Be would like to do a workshop at the Circle occasionally. Perhaps Sara would like to teach one. Be will ask her.
 - e. Website Updates – Emily will schedule a meeting with Chuck and Be in a week or two to discuss changes.
 - f. Newsletter – The newsletter link can be easily overlooked in the Sunday email. Emily will tell Rachel to send it in a separate email whenever it is approved.
 - g. Lee Stringer has volunteered to be Treasurer at the next annual meeting. He’s a long time Unitarian Universalist and was a CPA. There is concern that he is out of town several months a year. We discussed the value of approaching individuals the Board believes are qualified rather than

making a general announcement. Be will ask Bette if she'll do it. If she cannot, she'll ask her for a recommendation. The New Member Questionnaire that Sara sends out could have information that would help determine who has the necessary skills. Emily will ask Sara to share the completed questionnaires with her.

h. RE Program – Sara has been communicating with Rachel Conn about a youth program on Wednesday evenings. We could rent the Lodge or SOMOS. Sara needs at least 5 children to participate. Rachel said she could suggest other interested families. Emily moved that we approve an RE program for children on a trial basis. We recommend SOMOS as a less expensive and more convenient setting.

i. Other – Chuck expressed appreciation for the Care Team. They have come through with wonderful help for the Fawnses and the Schultzes. There was discussion of Jay's need for drivers for his cancer treatments in Santa Fe.

V. Committee Reports

a. Charitable Giving

i. Sack Lunches - Mimi reported that Andy, Director of the Men's Shelter, said they'd be happy to receive sack lunches. He requested 25. They'd need to be delivered after 6:00 pm on Sunday evening when they open.

ii. Interfaith Contribution – A \$100 donation will be made from the Charitable giving budget.

b. Music Committee – The next special music event will be at Munro's service on May 21. The musicians are Rachael Penn and Billy Stewart. Gael Minton will coordinate with Munro and the lay leader.

c. Membership – The Membership Committee met on April 7. The congregation currently has 64 members. The Committee thought that 3 people hadn't returned to worship since Covid. The Committee planned to call each of them to invite them back. Joe asked who they were and was able to clarify that the Goodmans have been back. They are currently out of town dealing with a health issue, so they do not need to be called. Sara will call Val Landi, who took the UU 101 class, to invite him to become a member.

The bylaws don't seem to address the issue of a minimum pledge and the Committee wonders if this should be addressed. We want to be sensitive to members who cannot afford a monetary pledge. The bylaws were amended in 2021 to include that pledges can be monetary or in kind, however, the

most current version wasn't updated on the website. Emily will send Sara the most current version and update them on the website. Be will send a draft of the wording of this section to the Board to see if we want to clarify it. It was suggested that we start a list of volunteer tasks that can be shared with members looking for a way to contribute in lieu of a financial pledge. Coordinating the UU World subscriptions and making coffee were the first two suggestions for this list.

The Membership Committee also wonders if there should be a pledge committee to contact new members about pledging so that job isn't the sole responsibility of the Treasurer. Emily pointed out that there used to be a Finance and Stewardship Committee headed by Bob, but he has since stepped down. This committee used to help with the pledge drive in the fall. Joe doesn't think it's necessary since there aren't that many new members. We can discuss this again before the pledge drive in the fall.

The Membership Committee would like to know what is included in the envelope given to new members when they sign the Membership Book. We suggest it include a pledge card. This envelope doesn't exist yet. Sara is working on a brochure to be included. It should include a paragraph with UCOT history. Sara needs to consult with Be to finalize the brochure.

d. Fifth Sunday Programs – Nothing new to report.

VI. **Closing Words** – Mimi read closing words from Sources of our Faith by Margaret Fuller.

VII. **Next Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm. The next meeting will be on May 20, 2023, at 1:00 pm via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by
Annette Rubin, Secretary