

**UCOT Board Meeting Minutes**  
**May 20, 2023**  
**Meeting id is 979 0569 7987**

- I. **Attendance** – present were Chuck Fawns, Emily Gillispie, Joe Mazza, Mimi Owensby, Annette Rubin, Sara Sautter, and Be Scott.
- II. **Opening Words** – Emily read opening words.
- III. **Minutes of the April Meeting** – Be moved to accept the April minutes. Emily seconded and it passed unanimously.
- IV. **Treasurer’s Report** – Joe reported that plate donations continue higher than usual. Expenses are running below budget. Be moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Mimi seconded and it passed unanimously.
- V. **Items for Discussion**
  - a. Book Club – The book club will be discussing An Inconvenient Apocalypse by Robert Jenson on July 20. He lives in Arroyo Seco and has agreed to come. Sara will send a press release to the Taos News which will hopefully be published in the Tempo. Sara will discuss promotion with Gael. There was discussion about who decides if a UCOT group should be open to the public. Sara asked if we had an operating policy which could be used to address issues like this. Emily will look at the UUA website to see if there is an example which could be modified to fit UCOT.
  - b. 2023 Services and Circles Schedule – There are no changes to the calendar at this time.
  - c. Services – No discussion
  - d. Circles – Be was pleased that David Vaughn had done a good job submitting his copy for the June Sharing Circle and had done so in a timely manner. She was pleased to report that several new members were volunteering to lead circles this year.
  - e. Our Next Treasurer – Be asked Bette if she’d like to return to the Board as Treasurer, and Bette said they could talk about it again once she returned from for her mother’s memorial service.
  - f. Website update – The committee (Emily, Be, and Chuck) decided that anything older than 2019 (anything that goes back more than three years) will be removed. All web pages have been updated. Emily still needs to update the meta data keywords so that Google and other

search engines will display the right kind of message about UCOT. Emily requested that the rest of the board review the website and make suggestions.

- g. UCOT phone number – The UCOT phone number listed in the Que Pasa? calendar in Tempo is wrong. In addition, calls do not go through to voicemail. Emily will have Rachel contact the Taos News to correct the number and Joe will call the phone company to repair the phone service. This explains why there haven't been any messages for a while.
  - h. Masonic Lodge Rental – We need an alternative plan. The current contract says we can be asked to leave with 30 days' notice. In addition, zero maintenance is being performed, including repairing the gas leak in the kitchen. After some discussion of the problems with the Lodge, Annette moved to form a search committee to research possible new locations. Emily seconded and the motion passed unanimously. We suggested Bette Myerson, Margot Coleman, Chris Westover, and David Vaughn for the committee. Emily will contact them.
  - i. Newsletter deadlines and costs – Rachel is concerned that people aren't honoring the newsletter deadlines, and this creates problems for her. Annette will talk to Sara about meeting the deadline. Emily will discuss the issues with Rachel. In the future, Rachel will only make 10 copies of the newsletter. Members can always access it via the link in the weekly email.
- VI. Committee Reports
- a. Charitable Giving – Two members a month have been giving reports to the committee.
  - b. Music – You'll see and hear music at the worship service tomorrow.
  - c. Membership – We currently have 66 members. The Membership Committee asked the Board to decide if we should start preparing the Men's Shelter sack meals on the third Sunday in June or July. We hope to make between 80 and 100 meals. The Board decided on June 18 as the start date. Rachel will send a separate email to announce the program with the sign-up genius link, so folks know what to bring. The Membership Committee wonders if we should delay picking up chairs after the service so people feel welcome to stay and visit, especially new members and visitors. After discussion it became apparent that congregants start stacking chairs themselves to be helpful and have

been doing so for a long time. It would be difficult to change this practice.

- d. Fifth Sunday Programs – Nothing to report.
- VII. **Closing Words** – Closing words were read by Annette.
- VIII. **Next Meeting** – The meeting was adjourned at 2:45. The next meeting will be on June 20 at 1:00 via Zoom.