

UCOT Board Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2023, at 1:30 pm via Zoom

Meeting id 979 0569 7987

- I. **Attendance** – Present were Emily Gillispie, Joe Mazza, Mimi Owensby, Annette Rubin and Be Scott.
- II. **Opening Words** -Emily read opening words by Tim Haley.
- III. **Minutes of the June Meeting** – There were no additions or corrections. Emily moved to accept the June minutes, Be seconded and the vote was unanimous.
- IV. **Treasurer’s Report** – Be moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Mimi seconded and the vote was unanimous.
- V. **Items for Discussion**
 - a. 2023 Services and Circles Calendar- Emily will update the calendar web page with the August events when the newsletter is available.
 - b. Services – nothing to discuss.
 - c. Circles – We usually have 20 – 25 people attending.
 - d. The next Treasurer – Emily looked through the directory for possible candidates. She suggested Ellie Pope, Jeanne Montclair (although she lives far away and may not have time), or Caryl Zorumski. Be suggested Kathleen McCaleb. Emily will talk to her.
 - e. Facebook Page – Mya has not been maintaining the Facebook page. After discussion, Joe moved we take it down, Annette seconded, and the vote was unanimous.
 - f. Chuck’s discussion with Dave Cordova – Yard maintenance will take place, paid for by UCOT. There is no gas leak. The smell is from the stove and there is a safety shutoff valve in case the pilot light goes out.
 - g. Gary – Gary’s evaluation luncheon will be at the Guadalajara Grill South on September 3. Emily will ask the board via email to send in their evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses for both ministers.
 - h. Munro – Munro’s evaluation luncheon will be on September 17, place to be decided. Be suggested someplace close to the Lodge that has outdoor seating, such as Guadalajara Grill or Five Star Burgers.

- i. New UU President – The new President is the Reverend Dr. Sofia Betancourt. Emily updated the website page “Message from our UUA President” with a picture of Betancourt and a piece written by her.
- j. A space of our own – Lee Stringer has approached multiple church members describing what he accomplished with a new building in Texas. Our Building Search Committee were of the unanimous opinion that the Bent Lodge is affordable and adequate. Moving was discussed at an annual meeting several years ago and the congregation had no desire to take on such a huge commitment. Emily will draft an email to Lee telling him we cannot consider doing this at this time.
- k. Judith Jenya will give a talk at the Open Topic Circle on September 24 about her lifelong Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) ethic. Her projects provide direct services to children who have survived wars. Be would like to let the Taos Jewish Center know that Judith will be here to see if they’d join us or perhaps invite her to speak to them. Annette will consult with Bette Myerson about sending an announcement to the B’nai Shalom email list inviting them to attend the Circle.
- l. July 4th picnic debrief – There was a great deal of appreciation for the Rubins for hosting. About 40 people happily attended. Suggestions for next year include setting an end date for the RSVPs and setting a maximum number of attendees.
- m. New UUA Principles – The new principles were approved at the General Assembly in June. After discussion, Emily moved to keep the original 7 Principles on our website and to identify them as UCOT Principles. Annette seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

VI. Committee Reports

- a. Caring Community – The committee is currently monitoring the needs of Jim and Nancy Schultz, Patsy and Dennis Scott, and Jay Bunker. There are now 8 members on the committee.
- b. Charitable Giving – Everything looks good. Joe asked Mimi to check on the address for the Pueblo since the check he mailed was returned. The

- Men's Shelter meals schedule is in good shape and scheduled five months.
- c. Music – Michael Mandrel is not available on August 6. The committee is attempting to find a different date when he is available.
 - d. Membership – The Membership Committee meeting was delayed till July 17 via Zoom since Sara is out of town taking care of her sister.
 - e. Fifth Sunday - Richard Rubin will speak about Aldo Leopold's Land Ethic on July 30th. The next Fifth Sunday talk will be on Querencia in October.
- VII. Closing Words** – Annette read a Chinese proverb about happiness stemming from helping others.
- VIII. Next Meeting-** August 19, 2023, at 1:30 pm via Zoom.