

**UCOT Board Meeting Minutes**  
Special Meeting of the Board  
October 22, 2023, at 2:00 pm via Zoom  
**Meeting id 979 0569 7987**

The meeting was called to order by President Emily Gillispie at 2:02 pm. Also present were Chuck Fawns, Joe Mazza, Mimi Owensby, Annette Rubin and Be Scott. This was a special board meeting to discuss Gary Kowalski's retirement from UCOT and the ministerial situation going forward.

We discussed how many Sundays to give to Jeanne Montclair. We decided that Emily and Joe will invite her over to discuss her doing five Sundays. They will also ask if she is interested in doing pastoral care. Addendum: Jeanne visited with Emily and Joe and she will not have the bandwidth to provide pastoral care since she is working full-time. Emily will write up a draft contract for Board review which will include her responsibilities, rate of pay, mileage reimbursement, and deadlines for delivering material for the newsletter. Addendum: we voted via email to give her the 2023 minister rate per sermon. Emily sent a draft contract to Jeanne for her review. The Board will review it during the November meeting.

We can invite Doug Inhofe to take at least one Sunday. When this is being arranged, Emily will discuss getting his newsletter material to Rachel on time. Chuck will take one Sunday to give a talk about Unitarian songwriter Ric Masten. We might want to ask Gary to do an occasional Sunday at some point if he feels well enough. Gary has given Emily the names of three retired minister friends we could invite to Taos to deliver a sermon. She'll also ask Donna Collins if she knows any retired UU ministers. Addendum: Donna gave us the names of several retired UU ministers in the Albuquerque area, and offered her condo in Taos as a place to stay for them if they should decide to come up.

The UUA has a process for finding a part time minister, but it is very complicated and time consuming. We won't do that at this time.

The suggestion was made to create a worship committee to coordinate worship services in 2024 and ask members of the congregation to join that team at the annual meeting.

Emily will write a draft of the response to the announcement regarding Gary's retirement. Rachel will send an email with Gary's letter of resignation and our response.

We discussed catering a lunch after the December 3 service to honor Gary. Joe will research options. We can use Signup Genius for congregants to bring flowers, set up tables, make coffee and other tasks to contribute. Board members are researching options for a gift for Gary. Addendum: we voted via email to give him a plaque.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm. The next meeting will be on November 18, 2023, at 1:30 pm via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by

Annette Rubin, Secretary