

UCOT Board Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2023, at 1:30 pm via Zoom
Meeting id 979 0569 7987

Attendance: President Emily Gillispie called the meeting to order at 1:31 pm. Also present were Chuck Fawns, Joe Mazza, Mimi Owensby, Annette Rubin, and Be Scott. Mary Gray was an invited guest.

- I. **Opening Words:** Mimi read the opening words about peace by Frank Holmes.
- II. **Charitable Giving Committee volunteers needed** (Mary Gray): The Charitable Giving Committee has only 4 stewards for the Little Free Pantry and would like to recruit more. The UCOT pantry's new location will be near the NEST shelter, which is opening on November 30. Taos Immigrant Allies has offered funding to reimburse people for the cost of the food for \$100 per person per month for those who are willing to steward the boxes but are not willing or able to use their own funds to pay for the supplies. Mary or Mimi will announce the request for additional stewards at services, circles, and the Annual Meeting. They will also put out a decorated box on Sundays for congregants to contribute shelf-stable food each week. An LFP steward will remove the box after the service or circle each week.
- III. **Minutes of the October Meeting:** Joe moved to accept both sets of the October minutes. Mimi seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Treasurer's Report:** Income from the Treasury Notes has been removed from the operating budget portion of the Treasurer's report since we don't have access to those funds. Annette moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Be seconded and it passed unanimously.
- V. **Items for Discussion**
 - a. Services and Calendar (All)
 - i. Christmas Eve service details: Planning for the Christmas Eve service is going well.
 - ii. Arrangements for the 12/3 luncheon: It was decided to order platters from Albertson's. Emily and Joe will make the selections and pick up the trays to store them at the Lodge.
 - iii. Draft 2024 Calendar: Emily has updated the 2024 calendar and will post the first few months to the website.
 - iv. Livestreaming: There was discussion about whether it is necessary to continue to livestream Sunday services. A few people would miss the livestream very much if it were unavailable. Be moved that when Rachel is unavailable on a Sunday, we record the service rather than livestream. Joe seconded and it passed unanimously. We will continue to record and livestream the services regularly and will only suspend the livestream on the weeks when Rachel is absent.
 - v. UUA process / ministerial search committee: The UUA requires congregations to have a search committee in order to use their process. We suggested inviting Mya Coursey, Mary Gray, Richard Rubin, and Joanne Stringer to form a search committee. On Sundays when a minister is not available, we could have a lay leader read a sermon posted on a UU website and add personal comments. We will also be open to members leading services by writing and delivering board-approved talks.
 - vi. Review of the draft contract for Jeanne: Annette moved to approve the contract. Joe seconded and it passed unanimously.
 - b. Circles: The facilitators' meeting took place. It was decided to resume use of the microphone.

- c. Pledge drive results and feedback: Forty-seven giving units were mailed pledge packets. Thirty-six have responded. \$31,415 has been pledged. Several issues raised by members were discussed. Gary performed Linda Malm's wedding and instead of accepting payment, asked her to make a contribution to UCOT in any amount she deemed appropriate. She donated \$250. Be will send Gary a handwritten thank you note for donating his honorarium for performing the wedding to UCOT. It was suggested that we do brief write-ups about members in the newsletter. Emily will announce to the congregation that members are always welcome to attend board meetings. We discussed the benefit of doing long-term planning.
- d. Bette Myerson will take over the UU World subscriptions.

The other agenda items were deferred to the December board meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 pm.

VI. Next Meeting: December 16, 2023, at 1:30 pm via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by
Annette Rubin, Secretary