

UCOT Board Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2024, at 1:30 pm via Zoom

Meeting id 709 932 0303

President Emily Gillispie called the meeting to order at 1:31 pm. Also present were Chuck Fawns, Mimi Owensby, Annette Rubin, Be Scott, Bette Myerson, and Wally Cox.

- I. **Opening Words:** Chuck read “Shaped by Fire” by Annie Potts.
- II. **Minutes of the March Meeting:** The minutes were accepted by a unanimous vote.
- III. **Treasurer’s Report:** We’ll discuss how to invest our surplus funds after the T-bill matures this fall. Annette moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Emily seconded and the vote was unanimous.
- IV. **Items for Discussion**
 - a. Services and Calendar (All)
 - i. Should we continue with the Highway Cleanup program? Only five people participated last time. It was a challenging task for a small group on a hot day. The Board likes the benefit of having the UCOT name on the road sign. Emily suggested meeting at 8:00 am at the Lodge (rather than 10:00 am) so that we can start picking up the litter before it gets too hot. Planning further ahead should help to get volunteers to commit to participating in advance. It might make the task easier to use trash pickers or grabbers to prevent back aches. Emily moved to continue the Highway Cleanup program for one more year. Chuck seconded and the vote was unanimous. Wally Cox will use the year to recruit his replacement as coordinator.
 - ii. Report on the ChMeetings platform:
 1. After discussion of the email Sara sent asking people whether they wanted to continue receiving emails from UCOT, Emily moved to archive all visitors who did not respond. Be seconded and the vote was unanimous. Annette and Emily will share the archiving task.
 2. Since archiving these names won’t count against our 250-person maximum, we won’t need to increase our subscription to 400. Emily moved to maintain our 250-person subscription to ChMeetings. Be seconded and the vote was unanimous.
 3. Be said that Sara had asked her to enter all the financial information into ChMeetings. She said that it is “clunky” compared to a spreadsheet, because you have to open each person’s pledge profile and edit them one at a time. The biggest problem she sees, over and above the general “clunkiness,” is that although you can enter a pledge amount for people, there is no way to indicate what they’ve paid to date and what their balances are. Due to this issue, she would have to continue to maintain records outside of ChMeetings. Be moved to stop entering pledge information on ChMeetings. Chuck seconded and the vote was unanimous.
 4. After discussing the idea of using ChMeetings to generate emails, it was felt that MailChimp has more built-in functionality to produce what are essentially “marketing” emails for us. The cost for MailChimp is very reasonable. Emily moved to continue using MailChimp for emails rather than switching to ChMeetings. Be seconded and the vote was unanimous.
 - iii. Sara took an interim job with a UU congregation in Arizona; she will be here until October, winter in AZ, then back for the summer. Emily will ask Sara what she plans to do regarding her commitments to UCOT (the membership committee, the book group, and the women’s luncheon). If Sara does not want to continue coordinating the book group, Mimi will ask Barbara Martinez if she will take over the task. Annette will consider who to invite to join the Membership Committee, and we will have to find someone to coordinate the women’s lunches.
 - iv. UUA GA results: Results were not in at the time of the board meeting. This will be on the agenda for next month’s meeting. Chuck will meet with Diana next week to discuss the new values. Emily forwarded emails from Diana describing the votes as they were taken.

Addendum, June 23: The changes to Article II passed as amended.

- b. Circles: The circles are going well. Mimi did not want the circle facilitators' names published. After discussion, Be moved to remove the facilitator's names from the Upcoming Services and Circles page on the website but leave them on the Calendar page for now, since Rachel uses that page each month to see who needs to submit newsletter content. Annette seconded. There were 4 yes votes and 1 abstention. Addendum, June 23: Emily removed the names from both the Schedule of Upcoming Services and the Calendar of Events page.
- c. UCOT Game Night will be at Mary Shaffer's home on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Emily will add this to the Calendar of Events webpage and the Word version of the calendar. Addendum, June 23: Emily completed the website and calendar updates.
- d. Worship committee formation: Chuck, Mya, Mimi, and Martha Grossman met. Diana will be included in the next meeting. Chuck will send the Board Mya's notes from the meeting. Emily mentioned that during the period of time when we were having a lot of guest ministers, she and Rachel had put together a Minister Task List and schedule. She will make that available to the Worship team when they're ready for it.
- e. Hearing assistance during services: Devices to provide hearing assistance are very expensive. Diana provides large type printed transcripts of her sermons, which should be at least a valuable half measure to help meet the needs of those with hearing loss.

V. Committee Reports

- a. Charitable Giving: Mimi had sent Be a list of when to pay the charities. Be will send checks to the first and second quarter charities now. Addendum, June 24: Be wrote and mailed the checks on Monday, June 24.
- b. Music: There is a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 26.
- c. Membership: Those visitors who responded that they want to continue receiving our emails will be asked if they wish to become members. The three new members who have already signed the membership book, Mary Shaffer, Eric Murto, and Barbara Berge, will be asked to send us their bios and photos by July 5. Then the membership committee will prepare the New Member page. Annette emailed Doug Inhofe, informing him of the July 21 Ingathering. He said he'd include comments on the importance of community and how we value new members. Sara is having lunch with Diana next week to ask her what she wants to be included in the new UCOT brochure. Then Sara will complete it and get it printed.
- d. Caring Community: Jim and Nancy are doing well. Chuck Doughty was recently diagnosed with a new condition and may need our help.

VI. Closing Words: Mimi read closing words by John Holmes from UU Sources of Our Faith.

VII. Next Meeting: July 27, 2024, at 1:30 pm via Zoom

Respectfully submitted by
Annette Rubin, Secretary