

UCOT Board Meeting Minutes
July 27, 2024, at 1:30 pm via Zoom
Meeting id 709 932 0303

President Emily Gillispie called the meeting to order at 1:30. Also present were Chuck Fawns, Mimi Owensby, Annette Rubin, and Be Scott.

- I. **Opening Words:** Be read opening words about the value of our differences by Adlai Stevenson from The Sources of Our Faith.
- II. **Minutes of the June Meeting:** Emily moved to accept the June minutes, Be seconded, and the vote was unanimous.
- III. **Treasurer's Report:** Annette moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Mimi seconded, and the vote was unanimous.
- IV. **Items for Discussion**
 - a. Services and Calendar (All)
 - i. Emily moved to keep the Seven Principles poster on the wall and the website. Annette seconded and the vote was unanimous. Emily will send the Board the eighth principle and we'll decide if we want to add it to the website.
 - ii. Coffee at services: Emily will ask Mary Shaffer how she feels about switching to lemonade during the summer since no one drinks the coffee she's been making.
 - iii. Donations to the First Parish Church in Kingston, MA, UU congregation: \$105 has been donated so far. Emily moved for the donation basket to be available for a month (two circles and two services). Be seconded and the vote was unanimous.
 - iv. Sara's involvement with Membership, the UCOT Book Group, and the UCOT Women's Luncheon. She will be gone starting in November for about seven months. We'll all look through the directory for possible people to ask to replace her while she's gone.
 - v. Sound on live stream recordings:
 1. Listening to the recording on a laptop may depend on the quality of the laptop's speakers.
 2. Rachel might know more about what we can do with the Focusrite software.
 3. A sound guy might be able to help – Joe reached out to Omar Rane but got no response, perhaps because he has a CA area code.
 4. Joe gave the link for an article that talks about what can be done to improve sound quality by upgrading equipment and using noise suppression software: <https://streamyard.com/blog/ways-to-reduce-live-stream-background-noise> Chuck will read this article.
 5. Annette will call Omar Rane to ask if he will consult to help us improve our sound quality on live stream and service recordings.
 - b. Circles (Mimi): Attendance has been very good.
 - c. What else? Bette and Mimi led a Unitarian service at St. James for the inter-faith group and it was very well received.
- V. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Charitable Giving (Mimi): The reports about the non-profits are continuing and the congregation is enjoying them.
 - b. Music: The Music Committee is on hiatus.

- c. Membership (Annette): Sara is working hard to get ChMeetings fully functional with a login for all members. She is planning a training session for all group leaders so we can send invitations to events and receive RSVPs through ChMeetings. That way we'll be able to track who is attending events and getting connected. Annette will ask Sara why we have duplicate or triplicate entries for some members. Be will talk to Sara to clarify which one of them will complete the new member brochure. Emily will send them photos from the website. The brochure will be sent to the Board for approval before it is printed. The New Member Ritual went well and the four new members seem happy. All of them have logged in to ChMeetings with no problem. It's been over a year since our last UU 101 class. Emily will email Diana to ask if she wants to teach the class. We discussed the pledge drive in the context of information on ChMeetings and Be will consult with Joe on the details of the drive.
- d. Caring Community (Chuck): Jim Schultz returned from Phoenix with good test results.

VI. Closing Words: Be read closing words by William Schultz from The Sources of Our Faith.

VII. Next Meeting: August 17, 2024, at 1:30 pm via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Annette Rubin, Secretary