

UCOT Board Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2025, at 1:30 pm via Zoom
Meeting id 709 932 0303

President Emily Gillispie called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. Also present were Chuck Fawns, Mimi Owensby, Be Scott, Don Zablosky, Julian Spalding, and Gael Minton.

I. Opening Words Mimi read The Need to Be Still, by Robert T. Weston

II. Minutes of the January Meeting Be moved to approve, Mimi seconded, all approved.

III. Treasurer's Report Be provided January's detailed report.

- a. The board discussed the monthly addition of Interest Earned information in the report. Corrections will be made to the January Income Budget entries, reflecting only that month rather than the entire year.
- b. Expense indicating UUA Regional Assessment will be relabeled to UUA Assessment. Chuck will involve Diana in the initial process of the UUA assessment. Be will help as needed.
- c. There was a discussion regarding moving the church's investment portfolio to another investment branch. It was decided to leave the portfolio with its current manager to avoid any potential conflict of interest issues.
- d. The benefit of a Board-approved discretionary fund was discussed and approved with a yearly budget of \$1000.
- e. Year-end tax letters created through ChMeetings was discussed. This would save paper for printing, postage, and above all time. A form letter created through ChMeetings will be used when creating year-end tax letters going forward.

Emily moved to approve these changes and new items, Chuck seconded, all approved.

IV. Items for Discussion

a. Membership Committee

- i. Julian is currently the only committee member but Patsy Scott will join him. He is refining the membership process. New visitors will get welcome letters. To become a member, the membership book must be signed and dated. Ongoing visitor and new-member connection was favored over a Membership Sunday, considering the current church size. Don will send a photo of the visitor signup for email to Julian and Rachel each circle Sunday so that all visitors can be entered on ChMeetings.
- ii. Gael will get an updated directory but declined tutoring on the ChMeetings app. She intends to stress individual involvement throughout the year.
- iii. Ongoing volunteer recruitment by committee members was favored over a Volunteer Recruitment event considering the current church size.

iv. The process outlined for new members was discussed. Membership letters and the membership book were identified.

b. Fifth Sunday Programming

Gael will survey members as Thanksgiving nears to determine the need for any programming that weekend. She will also survey members about potential programming throughout the year and report back for the March meeting.

c. Music Committee

Gael described how the Music Committee will be disbanded based on congregational feedback received during the pledge drive.

e. What else?

i. Emily will be in Dallas 3/17-3/24 inclusive.

ii. Livestream sound quality of the piano and hymn singing needs attention. Joe will be informed. Addendum: Joe continues to experiment with the best microphone / speaker placement but may need to purchase additional equipment if no further improvements can be made.

iv. We need a backup sound person. Emily will contact True Kids 1 for a potential tech person.

v. Links to the UUA stance on our rapidly changing political and social environment will be added to the next few weekly emails. Addendum: Emily asked Rachel to run a short message in the next few emails with links to the actions the UUA is taking.

vi. A Sunday announcement and a blurb in weekly emails will describe the search for a volunteer to manage UCOT's Facebook presence.

V. Committee Reports

a. Charitable Giving Mimi has cancelled the February meeting due to her ongoing health issues. She has asked Margot to lead the committee for a while, but Margot is recovering from her own health problems at this time.

b. Caring Community Chuck reported that all of us should notify Marsha, Margot, or Patsy if we're aware of someone who's in need of assistance.

VI. Closing Words Mimi read from *Invincible Summer*.

VII. Next Meeting: There will be a special Board meeting on February 22, 2025, at 2:30 pm via Zoom regarding a property that is available for lease or purchase. The next regular Board meeting will be March 15 at 1:30 pm. Addendum: This meeting has been moved to March 8 at 2:30 pm.