

UUCR Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

6:30 - 8:00 pm via Zoom

(revised 9/9/2020)

In Attendance: President Elsa Strong, Vice President Betsy Wilder, Mary Carvajal, Glenn Griffin, Don Helton, Larissa Johnson, Reverend Rebekah Savage

ACTION ITEMS

- Elsa/Brian - to figure out the new Secretary/Board position before the Blessing Ceremony
- Betsy - Will follow up about the HVAC system
- All - Have a conversation with the Lay Ministry Committee about the new Communications committee

WELCOME AND SETTLING

Opening Words and Chalice Lighting were presented by all, we read our 8 principles

Shared Roses and Thorns

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the May 20, 2020 meeting were approved (Motion, Mary Carvajal, Second by Elsa Strong, unanimous approval).

6:58 pm: Treasurer's Report and Budget

Accrued Expenses - \$2798 is the second of two payments for our insurance premium, due in September. Normally the entire premium is paid in May, but UUCR opted for the two-payment plan this year to provide cash flow flexibility.

Deferred pledges - \$61,815 of prepaid pledges for 2020-21 were transferred into income in July. A byproduct of this transfer was an increase in the General Reserve to 32% of the annual budget (per note on bottom of Page 2).

Current pledges - the total pledges received through the end of July (including those prepaid prior to June 30) was greater than last year.

Non-pledge gifts - were unusually high last year because of a special appeal, so this year is not out of line.

UUAA Grant - For interns, received \$4000 in July.

Rentals - There are some places where we may have cause for concern in the next fiscal year. Challenges facing two major renters have resulted in delayed payments, even with negotiated reductions, but the payments were deposited around time of the board meeting.

7:14: Minister's Updates

New Hire - Part time, Media/Communication Assistant - 20 hours - the board discussed this and other staffing options since our needs may change in a few months/in a year, but the job posting will be pursued for a potential October hire.

Getting to know the board - Would like to spend 30 minutes with every member on Fridays. Six appointments each week.

Offices - Rev. Rebekah's office will be a shared office space and a meeting space and she is moving into her new office

Meeting Notes - What should Rev. Rebekah report back every month - Administrative updates, Staff updates, deadlines, dates, and details the Board should know.

- Creating a Data Team that reports on all the important information and metrics. (The Metrics Mavens)

Blessing Ceremony - September 13th is the Water Ceremony - Three options for people: 1) send a video to be incorporated into a video 2) drop off the water at the congregation and 3) a hybrid version and then there will be a Blessing of the Board after that and each member will receive some water.

7:32: Congregational Activity

Reopening Committee - Montgomery County is providing a lottery reimbursement grant program to help congregations/businesses reopen. The group is trying to determine what that would look like. The Re-Opening Committee has recommended to not reopen until a vaccine is available, so before applying for funding, there should be a plan for spending. One option would be to update the HVAC system to make it safer for viral containment (we are at 8 and need to be at 13). The board requests more information on feasibility and costs, since they might not be reimbursed.

Review Tracker - The board has implemented a project tracker, and is looking for ways to share data on our projects with the congregation and Lay Ministry Council, and to also share the many activities carried out by the Lay Ministers and their committees. Realm will be investigated as a way to get and share information.

7:43: Discernment and Decisions

Goals for the Year - these are the places where we would like to place our attention this year.

Nurture commitment and engagement, frequent communication with the congregation, helping to create the Communications, Membership and Stewardship committees/teams/leadership (there is a team of people who help with this) and to nurture the small group ministries.

Defining the roles and responsibilities of the Youth Board Member (not a voting member). Betsy has been working on creating this definition. They would help with the Strategic Plan and provide feedback from the youth on how they see themselves participating in the process. The Youth Board Member would attend the meeting and send information to the youth group. It would be a 3 year commitment (a Sophomore) where they would help mentor another member in their third year.

New Secretary for the Board - Brian is researching the options - either have him take the role and appoint a new Board of Trustees or vice versa. Hoping to have this completed by the Blessing Ceremony.

Rental Committee - Work is needed to streamline the process and point(s) of contact for the various rental groups.

Rainbow Youth Alliance - Sufficient time was not available to discuss this important group. The board would like to understand details about the history and relationship between RYA and UUCR.

8:10: Closing Words

Glenn shared