**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Miguel de Allende**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**(Conducted via Zoom)**

**January 13, 2022**

**Members Present:** Dan Neuspiel, President; William Dalsimer, 1st VP; Chris Chase, 2nd VP; Gary Belkin, Treasurer; Joseph Plummer, Secretary; Jurgen Ahlers, Bonney McDowell, Christie McGue; Rev. Tom Rosiello, Ex-Officio

**Members Absent:** Becky Langrall, Joan Wolf

**Guests:** Margo Johnson, Trish Snyder, Carolyn Simsarian, Ben Gall, Dick Snyder, Jane Wilkinson

A **quorum present**, President Dan Neuspiel called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Chris Chase read Mabel Collins’ “Light on the Path” as **Opening Words**.

On Gary Belkin’s motion and Chris’s second, the **meeting agenda** was approved with the Social Action Committee and Pledge Team presentations shifted to follow discussion of the Program Council.

On Gary’s motion and Chris’s second, **December 9, 2021, Minutes** were approved with a clarification that money from the Ben Gall fundraiser will be contributed to the UUFSMA.

**President’s Report**

Deferred

**Program Council**

Bill Dalsimer reported that the drafting committee for the Program Council will meet on January 10, 2022, and prepare a resolution for review during the February 10, 2022, Board meeting. He emphasized that the Program Council will permit the board to focus more attention on UUFSMA strategy and planning.

**Social Action Committee**

Jane Wilkinson reported plans for social action grants totaling up to $60,000. (later raised to $62,500 – see Treasurer’s Report below).

**Pledge Team**

Christie McGue reported that pledges of approximately $9,000 have been recorded prior to the start of the Pledge Drive. Positive responses to the membership survey provide a promising base for the drive. Christie asked board members to make pledges prior to the start of the drive. Trish Snyder noted that the team will contact every member of the fellowship to seek pledges. The team would prepare a speaker’s schedule for the drive. Ben Gall noted that team communications will emphasize the fellowship’s variety of uses of pledge income. Dan noted that 2021 average pledges rose significantly from 2020.

**Covid-19 Taskforce**

On January 3, 2022, by email vote of seven to zero with one abstention, the board approved the following proposal: *Due to the rapid spread of the Omicron variant, effective January 9, 2022, UUFSMA public Sunday services will be indefinitely suspended. UUFSMA will continue to hold Zoom-only services. Our technical team, pianists, other musicians, and one to two in-person speakers may broadcast from the Aldea while maintaining current safety precautions. However, no audience will attend. The Covid-19 Task Force will continue to monitor the spread of infection in the community and make further recommendations as needed.*

UUFSMA will provide CDC-recommended masks through the Care Team and reimburse purchase costs that exceed current team funds for contingent expenses. Dan will post sources for masks and lanyards available at Amazon.mx.

**Care Team**

Diana Amaya and her partner have created a homecare service available to members.

**Membership Committee**

Chris reported that the New Member Ceremony will be held during the January 30 Sunday Service.

**Welcoming Congregation**

No new items

**Children’s Education Program**

No new items

**Sunday Service Committee**

Tom Rosiello noted the shift from in-person to Zoom-only participation of guest ministers because of the resurgence of Covid-19 infections.

**Endowment Committee**

No new items

**Nominating Committee**

No new items

**Widening the Circle Taskforce**

Three of the taskforce’s eleven planned monthly meetings remain.

**Taskforce on the Future of Ministry**

Margo Johnson reported that the taskforce is meeting several times a week to meet a February 1 deadline for its final report and discussion during the February 10 board meeting. Six of the original eight members remain on the taskforce.

**Finance Committee**

No new items

**Treasurer’s Report**

Gary reported that every Board executive committee member has signed the new ACTA and the process for UUFSMA registration as a Donataria Autorizada is moving ahead. He also noted that the 2021 fiscal year ended with a surplus of $8,500, which will be shifted to the our reserve funds.

Dan proposed an increase to $15,000 for 2022 projected Sunday donations. He noted that the board’s June 2021 resolution of a 50 percent designation of 2022 income for social action grants will equal approximately $62,500. He recommended a minimum 7 percent cost of living increase for staff. This was later raised to maintain parity among staff salaries at 275 pesos per hour. Tom recommended creation of a Board committee for personnel issues.

A budget of $2,000 for annual contribution to the Unitarian Universalist Association, $100 for miscellaneous fellowship services, and $400 for outreach materials were also recommended.

**Minister’s Report**

Tom noted that a number of members who had indicated withdrawal from the Fellowship have decided not to do so.

**Old Business**

Joseph Plummer will participate with Dan in the February 15 Administrative Staff meeting.

**New Business**

Joseph and Bill provided a brief report on the Right Relations proposal; further action on this proposal will be deferred until the new board is seated in April. Electronic Voting at the Annual Meeting will be discussed at the February Board Meeting.

The in-person and virtual UUA General Assembly is scheduled for June 22-26 in Portland, Oregon. UUFSMA will reimburse $100 each to up to 5 members who agree to serve as delegates, for whom $500 will be budgeted.

At Jurgen Ahlers’ request, discussion of a permanent committee on fellowship climate change initiatives was tabled until April.

**Upcoming 2022 Monthly Board Meetings**

Second Thursdays at 1 p.m. CTZ except for March.

February 10, March 3 (first Thursday), March 17 (if needed following the budget hearing)

Volunteers are need for opening words.

**Annual Meetings** (all Board Members asked to attend):

Membership Budget Hearing: Mar 13, 2022, 1:00 PM

Membership Meeting: Mar 27, 2022, 1:00 PM

This meeting was adjourned at 3:16 PM CTZ

Minutes recorded and submitted by Board Secretary Joseph Plummer