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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**(Conducted via Zoom)**

**March 4, 2021**

**All Members Present**: Dan Neuspiel, President; William Dalsimer, 1st VP; Chris Chase, 2nd VP; Jane Wilkinson, Treasurer; Joseph Plummer, Secretary; Jim Harper, Becky Langrall, Bonney McDowell, Joan Wolf, Jurgen Ahlers, Rev. Tom Rosiello, Ex-Officio

**Guests**: Paula Peace, Eleanor Goodwin, Margo Johnson, Trish Snyder

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by President Dan Neuspiel at 1:00 p.m.

**Opening Words**

Joseph read “By the Potomac,” a poem by Thomas Bailey Aldrich (1836-1907).

On a motion by Becky and a 2nd by Bill, the meeting agenda was approved as submitted.

On a motion by Bonney and a 2nd by Bill, the minutes of the February 21, 2021 Board Meeting were accepted as submitted.

**President’s Report**

Dan reported on his attendance at the online UUA New Day Rising Conference on February 27, which focused attention on dismantling the culture of white supremacy and widening the circle of UU attendance and membership.

**Committee and Taskforce Reports**

**COVID19 Taskforce**

Bonney reported that we are waiting for the schedule of Covid-19 vaccinations in SMA and updates on the pandemic from the US CDC. Cruz Roja will receive UUFSMA support from a Blue Plate Special scheduled for March 21.

**Care Team**

 No new activities reported.

**Membership Committee**

Chris reported on revised membership definitions in the bylaws. She added that the revised membership form will also capture pledge donations. Dan noted that the revised ACTA may not be filed until January 2022 because some board-members’ need to obtain resident visas. On Becky’s motion and Bill’s 2nd, the board agreed to seek approval of proposed bylaws and ACTA revisions.

**Welcoming Congregation**

Bonney noted a need for new members to join the committee.

**Children’s Education Program**

Chris noted a lapse in program activities because of unspecified issues among participating families.

**Sunday Service Committee**

 No new business

**Social Action Committee**

Becky noted an additional $3,500 remains to be allocated for Social Action Grants. On Jane’s suggestion, that money will be budgeted as a discretionary fund in the SAC budget, so that SAC may later determine how to distribute these funds.

**Endowment Committee**

Committee Chair Steve Singer plans to meet with the Board during in April.

**Nominating Committee**

No new business

**Widening the Circle of Concern Taskforce**

Dan reported that Mary Murrell volunteered to be a co-chair of this taskforce. On Dan’s motion and Bill’s 2nd, the board approved her for that position. The UUA Widening the Circle of Concern curriculum features 11 monthly meetings. UUFSMA members will be invited to participate in groups of 8-10 each, with 2 coleaders for each group. Paula recommended taglines to differentiate between Widening the Circle and the Welcoming Congregation.

**Committee on Ministry**

The Board approved Hugh Tomlinson and Bill Dalsimer as cochairs of the committee. Tom restated the committee’s need for help with grant writing and identification of potential funders.

**Finance Committee**

Trish reported that the Pledge Team obtained 126 pledges from 154 members for a total pledge for 2021 of $95,963 and a mean average pledge of $761, surpassing the 2021 pledge goal of $90,000. Margo noted the committee’s continued search for 1 or 2 new committee members.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Jane reported a compensation dispute with the former accountant creates a potential liability of $1,000, which will be reserved in the current budget. Dan proposed to raise Diego Rivera’s budgeted time to 5 hrs/week at 200 pesos/hour (from 4 hrs). By unanimous consent, the board agreed to the increase.

On a motion by Becky and a 2nd from a board member, the board agreed to make a $250 annual donation to the UU Service Committee, and a $250 annual donation to the UU United Nations Organization with 1 opposing vote seeking a larger amount.

Dan requested and the board approved an expenditure for spf.io, an automatic translation service, of $98 for a 2 month trial of 5 hrs/month for Spanish subtitles, which would increase, if the service meets expectations, to $489 a year for 5 hrs/month or $999 for 10 hrs/month. A special donation for the annual amount would be solicited. The service would support UUFSMA bi-cultural initiatives and would be used during online services and later for projection during in-person services and other bi-cultural events.

**Minister’s Report**

Tom reported a strong demand for his 3-week course on UU history. A joint service with the Lake Chapala UU is scheduled for April. The May 16 Sunday Service featuring guest speaker Tania Marquez will accommodate Spanish speakers.

**Old Business**

Dan noted that Tuesday board member meetings with administrative staff will be scheduled less often starting in April and anchored to the Tuesday after monthly board meetings. Chris will investigate the value of the UUA technical group for Diego Vargas. Paula noted Denise Galipeau’s successful trial period as Sunday Service Manager, and Dan recommended that her new role be expanded and made permanent. Jane reported that the handoff of the treasurer’s role to Gary Belkin has been seamless. Jane will continue as an unofficial consultant to Gary after he is elected to the board position.

**Annual Meeting, March 21, 12:30-2:30pm SMA time**

Dan noted that 154 members are qualified to vote, creating a quorum of 31 attending members whom Denise will track as they sign into the online session. Diana will monitor the chat box during the session, and each speaker will be designated as co-hosts with the ability to mute and unmute audience members, as necessary. Joseph will explain and manage the application for online voting.

**Envisioning the Future Report**

Goal Owners offered no follow-ups. The report will be sent to every member with annual meeting materials. The committee will propose to the Board a Memorial Garden for deceased UUFSMA members. The committee will also identify projects for the goal of reducing the carbon footprint.

**New Business**

The theme of the 2021 UU General Assembly is “Circle 'Round for Justice, Healing, Courage.”  UUFSMA is entitled to 5 delegates this year without counting Tom. Dan, Chris, Becky, Bonney, and possibly Andrea Kauffman plan to attend. Nondelegates can attend information sessions. Conference volunteers can attend for free.

As they both departed from this last of their terms, Dan expressed his gratitude on behalf of the Fellowship for the 13 years of Jim Harper’s service on the Board and the 5 years of Jane Wilkinson’s service as UUFSMA Treasurer, sentiments likewise expressed by the other board members.

Becky volunteered to provide Opening Words for the April 8 Board meeting, which will be chaired by Bill, and, with the agenda completed, the meeting adjourned at 4 PM CTZ.

Upcoming Board Meetings are scheduled for Thursdays at 1 PM CTZ on April 8, May 13, June 10, July 8, and August 12.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Board Secretary Joseph Plummer