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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**(Conducted via Zoom)**

**April 8, 2021**

**Members Present**: William Dalsimer, Acting President; Chris Chase, 2nd VP; Gary Belkin, Treasurer; Joseph Plummer, Secretary; Jurgen Ahlers, Becky Langrall, Christie McGue, Joan Wolf

**Members Absent**: Dan Neuspiel, President; Bonney McDowell

**Ex-Officio**: Rev. Tom Rosiello

**Guests**: Paula Peace, Ellie Goodwin, Steve Singer

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by Acting President Bill Dalsimer at 1:05 p.m.

The Board approved the meeting agenda as submitted.

On Bill’s motion and Gary’s second, minutes from the March 4, 2021 Board Meeting were unanimously adopted with a substitution of “Diego Vargas” for “Diana Amaya” in its discussion of a UUA technical group under Old Business.

Bill then offered a warm welcome to Gary Belkin and Christie McGue attending their first meeting as new board members.

**Committee Reports**

**COVID 19 Task Force**

Tom reported a second round of vaccinations will be available in San Miguel de Allende between April 9 and 30.

**Care Team**

Joan announced the addition of new team members, Susan Bacon, Louisa Field, and Jeannie Seward McGee. Team members will visit a hospital during the week of April 11. Joan, Jurgen, and Tom are discussing locations for a memorial garden for the cremains of UUFSMA members and initially considering Our Lady of Guadalupe Cemetery near Hotel Real de Minas.

**Membership Committee**

Chris’s contacts with members who have not pledged for 2021 identified some who plan not to return to SMA, another confused by PayPal and needing more information, and another who wants to become a more active member.

**Welcoming Congregation**

Discussion of Pride Service in Minister’s Report below

**Children’s Education Program**

Chris is recruiting families with children to participate in the May 2 Mexican Children’s Day celebration.

**Sunday Service Committee**

Paula reported that Denise is doing an excellent job and catching on very quickly in her new position as Sunday Service Manager.

**Social Action Committee**

Becky asked for advice or feedback on a SAC draft mission statement. Tom recommended prefatory language noting that the statement is consistent with the principles, mission, and vision of the UUFSMA. Following the amendment adopted at the annual meeting, the budget will record the budget at $56,082 and note that the peso equivalent will be stated at the exchange rate on the date that grants are transferred to NGOs. Determination of whether the allocation is based on 50 percent of “the UUFSMA budget” or “UUFSMA income” will be postponed until Dan is present to chair the discussion. The board then discussed the floor amendment during the annual meeting, which overturned board recommended language for SAC allocations, as a disconnect of members from the rationale of the budget process, one that will require more direct discussion with members.

**Endowment Committee**

Steve Singer reported that after a year of work by the committee the endowment holds approximately $39,000. Funds have been invested in the UUA Investment Fund for approximately four months during which it has earned some $500 (5 percent), starting with an initial investment of $20,000 and adding new contributions as received. He noted that the current holdings have resulted from contributions by 39 individuals donating between $85 and $5000. He noted the board’s commitment to invest $10,000 in the endowment and asked that it consider making some or all that donation as a growth investment. He also urged all board members to make an individual donation no matter how large or small as leaders of the fellowship.

**Nominating Committee**

Ellie reported that there are no new positions to be filled and the committee will not meet again August or September.

**Widening the Circle of Concern**

Tom reported that about 30 people have signed up for the project. Brian Fishbone and Tom are organizing the project into groups of 8-10 people. The project with adoption of a proposed 8th principle about anti-racism, which about 30-40 congregations have dealt with it. Widening the Circle is a preparation for adoption of the principle.

**Committee on Ministry**

Discussion during Minister’s Report below

**Finance Committee**

No new business

**Treasurer’s Report**

Gary prepared the March Budget Report using Jane’s formatting, although he added a category for Pass-Throughs to isolate moneys not available to the fellowship, such as the Common Endowment Fund, Blue Plate Specials, and the Minister’s Discretionary Fund, from Income available for the budget. He noted the inexact values of peso projections due to month-to-month currency fluctuations.

Because of a shortage of pesos in the UUF Mexican bank account, more than US$5,000 raised during the March 21 Blue Plate Special have not been transferred to Cruz Roja.

Tom requested creation of a “Ministry” category for his costs and placement of guest minister stipends under the Sunday Service category. Paula asked for elimination of the term “Affiliate Minister.” Gary will examine all budget categories and recommend changes.

**Minister’s Report**

Tom noted his high priority for the Envisioning Report’s goals for ministerial activities and highlighted outreach to other UUs in Mexico and the increase of Mexican, LGBTQ, and bicultural content to Sunday services and other programs. He listed as examples the May 16 bi-lingual guest speaker Tania Marquez, planning for the June 6 Pride Sunday service celebrating the 1969 Stonewall Uprising, and attention to a balance between social justice and personal concerns addressed in Sunday services.

**Old Business**

**Feedback on Annual Meeting**

Joseph noted members’ difficulties with the eBallot voting instructions. Bill expressed concern about the lack of secrecy in the roll-call vote for the floor amendment to social action grants.

**Administrative Staff**

No items for discussion

**Envisioning the Future Report**

Jurgen noted several beneficial practices for consumers to reduce carbon emissions, such as meatless and vegetarian diets, window-box and other small gardens, and simplified clothing made from organic cotton. He foresees recruitment of members to propose guidelines and suggestions for the fellowship, which Paula suggested for the newsletter.

**Committee on Ministry**

Bill noted that the committee has five members, Jurgen, Bill, Hugh Tomlinson, Cathy Canepa, and Frank Thoms

**New Business**

GA 2021: Theme: **“Circle 'Round for Justice, Healing, Courage”**. Registration opened December 1st, at $200 per person.  We have 5 delegates this year (not counting Tom). Tom recommended a newsletter invitation to members to attend as delegates.

**Committee on Ministry**

Bill noted that attracting candidates for the resident minister will not be an issue. Funding will be more difficult and need to recognize whether individuals have families or partners, need housing, and so forth. He suggested seeking funds from members, UU programs, and UUFSMA discretionary funds. Chris noted the need for a job description. Tom noted that the committee is preparing a draft about the project for circulation in May. The board approved completion of the draft and its circulation to the fellowship. Ellie recommended a series of small group meetings. Tom will talk to ministers about the program during UUGA minister’s meeting.

During the meeting hearing that Dan’s surgery had been completed without complication, all board members expressed hearty good wishes for his continued wellness.

The business of the agenda completed the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

2021 Monthly Board Meetings 2021: second Thursdays at 1 p.m. CTZ: May 13, June 10, July 8, Aug 12

Minutes recorded and submitted by Board Secretary Joseph Plummer