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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**(Conducted via Zoom)**

**MAY 13, 2021**

**Members Present**: Chris Chase, 2nd VP, Presiding; William Dalsimer, 1st VP; Gary Belkin, Treasurer; Jurgen Ahlers, Becky Langrall, Bonney McDowell, Christie McGue, Joan Wolf

**Members Absent**: Dan Neuspiel, Joseph Plummer, Rev. Tom Rosiello

**Guests**: Paula Peace, Eleanor Goodwin

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

The agenda was approved as submitted.

Minutes from April 8, 2021Board Meeting were accepted without changes.

**Committee and Taskforce Reports**

**COVID19 Taskforce**

Bonney reported on the Go Fund Me effort to help San Miguel residents, who are still at risk of contracting Covid. Kate’s email has been circulated. Bonney announced that she and Andrea are moving to Pennsylvania to a senior residence in August. She hereby advises the Nominating Committee that her Mexico Visa will lapse, and she will no longer meet ACTA’s requirement for Board members.

**Care Team**

Joan reported that members of the Team and guests toured Joya Hospital. Donna Shubrooks will submit a summary of the tour. Home visits to and by those who are fully vaccinated are anticipated to resume in June with Tom’s guidance.

**Membership Committee**

Chris continues to greet visitors at Sunday services.

**Welcoming Congregation**

Bonney reported that Tom is slated to speak about Pride during a June service.

**Children’s Education Program**

Chris reported there has not been new activity with children.

**Sunday Service Committee**

Paula reported a shift in hours for Denise and Diana to accommodate additional weekly hours for Diego. She noted an ongoing endeavor to incorporate effective bilingual broadcast of Sunday services. Paula reminded the Board of the need to purchase a camera and multi-channel amplifier to broadcast Zoom and live services. Feedback about the decline in attendance of online Sunday Services included a recommendation that publicity of Sunday Service content be circulated as a reminder to the fellowship on Fridays or Saturdays.

**Social Action Committee**

No new items were reported.

**Endowment Committee**

Ellie advised that Founder Society donors have been asked to provide additional information that may have historical value.

**Nominating Committee**

Ellie expressed gratitude for Bonney’s many contributions as a board member and added it will be a big task to find her replacement. She questioned whether the ACTA requirement could be waived.

**Widening the Circle of Concern Taskforce**

No new activity reported.

**Committee on Ministry**

Bill encouraged board members to attend the Wednesday, May 19th, committee meeting for which Denise sent invitations. He advised that Tuesday discussion group will honor Liz Stone, who will no longer lead the group, by raising funds in her name for the Endowment Fund. Donna Shubrooks will become the new leader of the group.

**Fellowship Finances**

**Finance Committee**

No new business reported.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Presenting the April Budget report, Gary reviewed a transfer of U.S. funds to Bajio Bank for pesos and a reduction of reserves to $71,053 because of transfers to the Endowment Fund and the Minister’s Discretionary Fund. He noted additional expenses for a much-needed increase in UUFSMA Dropbox capacity and purchase of two hard drives to secure vital fellowship information. He thanked Paula Peace for orchestrating this improvement in data security.

**Minister’s Report**

No new items reported.

**Old Business**

**Administrative staff**

No new items discussed.

**Envisioning the Future Report**

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| --- | --- |
| **Goal** | **Owner(s)** |
| Committee on Ministry | Dan, Tom |
| Minister Residency Program | Committee on Ministry |
| Congregational Development Grants | Christie M. |
| Reducing our Carbon Footprint | Jurgen reported there will be Eco-green items in our next newsletter. |
| UUFSMA Archival System | Jim |
| Members’ Needs: Creating, Deepening, and Sustaining Community Connections | Chris, Membership Committee |
| Social Action Program | Becky, Social Action Committee |
| Strengthen our Engagement with Newcomers | Chris, Membership Committee |
| Family and Ability-Inclusive Programming | Chris, Children’s Education Program |
| Welcoming Community for LGBTQ | Bonney, Welcoming Congregation Team |
| Anti-Racist and Multicultural Programming and Education | Paula, Sunday Service Committee, Widening the Circle of Concern Task Force |
| UUFSMA Awareness in SMA, Mexico, & Beyond | Joseph, Jim |

**New Business**

**UU General Assembly 2021**: **“Circle 'Round for Justice, Healing, Courage”**

Registration opened December 1st, at $200 per person.  We have 5 delegates this year (not counting Tom): Dan Neuspiel, Chris Chase, Paula Peace, Helen Rivas-Rose, Judith Jenya. Delegate voting options? Chris expressed concern for UUFSMA delegation voting as either a block or as individuals. The Board requested more information as it develops awareness of ballot issues offered to GA delegates and urged a series of Zoom meetings to educate members about multiple timely topics, e.g., GA pending votes, budget, and Committee on Ministry initiatives.

No new Volunteers for Opening Words

Upcoming Board 2021 Meetings, 2ndThursdays at 1 p.m.: June 10, July 8, August 12, September 9, October 14, November 11, December 9

Minutes prepared by Vice President Chris Chase and submitted by Board Secretary Joseph Plummer

**Appended Committee Reports**

**Care Team**

* Care team representatives and a few other UUs visited the new La Joya hospital. Donna Shubrooks will soon post a report of the visit on the UU email group.
* Francoise will be in the states in May so the team will meet next when she returns in June.
* Now that most have received two vaccines, we plan to start making home visits again in the near future. We will work with Tom to identify members who would like visits.

**Membership**

* Continuing to follow up with visitors to weekly services.

**Sunday Service Committee**

* REQUEST TO ADD HOURS for DIEGO: In reviewing Diego’s recent timesheets, I see he has been spending 7-11 hours weekly. (Considering he spends 2 hours Sundays and 1 hour for Friday Zoom Practice, this only means 4-8 hours actually video editing, adding lyrics, translating and adding subtitles to Spanish speaker.) I have long suspected our planned 5 hours for him was consistently low. He feels 7 hours weekly @ 200 pesos (or 1400MXN weekly) will average out well, between weeks of 8 or 6 hours.
* ORGANIZATION: Denise and I continue to make progress with organizing collaborative files and now have a new Checklist, permitting multiple people to track production details in the shared Dropbox folder.
* SPANISH IN SERVICES: The recent Joint Sunday Service Apr 25, with the Lake Chapala UU, was an important next step in presenting more bicultural elements in services. We learned with only 3 days notice that Mexican UUs (Spanish speaking) would be joining the service, resulting in all Sunday Team staff scrambling to include Spanish translations. I subsequently met with Diego, Diana and Denise to debrief about ideas for handling future translation requests and keeping expectations reasonable. It’s important to keep this open dialog during this time of transition. Rev. Tania Marquez, bicultural and bilingual UU minister in San Diego, has been booked for 2 upcoming services and she models successful biculturalism in services. We’ve already begun to pick her brain about how she works with a translator. Dan also has done some research about SPF.IO auto captioning software and we may recommend giving that service a trial. Stay tuned to this active research…
* FUTURE HYBRID SERVICE NEEDS: Diego and I met to discuss equipment he recommends we purchase for whenever we transition to hybrid live and Zoom services back at the Aldea. He is familiar with new cameras specifically designed to double serve as webcams and prices are encouraging. Stay tuned for a detailed budget to come…
* SERVICES: SSC has currently booked speakers through August 2021.

Zoom Sunday Services to date (through May 9) – 59 services completed.

**Social Action Committee**

* SAC will stay with the current timing of grants, with RFPs going out in August, due by the end of October and recommended to the Board in December/January.
* Cliff DuRand has organized a day trip to Cieneguita on Friday, May 14, to learn more about the work of CEDESA. Jurgen Ahlers, John Simsarian, Gary Belkin and Chris Chase will join him.
* SAC members are open to reading their own Offering Introductions as feasible and understand that they need to be written a week and a day in advance of the service at which they will be read.