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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**(Conducted via Zoom)**

**June 10, 2021**

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

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

**Guests:** Paula Peace, Ellie Goodwin

Dan Neuspiel shared **Opening Words** from the Reverend David Breeden

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

The agenda was approved as submitted on a motion by Chris Chase and second by Bonney McDowell.

On a motion by Christie McGue and a second by Gary Belkin, minutes from the May 13, 2021, Board Meeting were approved.

On a motion by Gary and a second by Jurgen Ahlers, minutes from the March 21, 2021, Annual Membership Meeting were approved.

**President’s Report**

Following surgery and recuperation, Dan said he is glad to be back in San Miguel and free of cancer.

**Committee and Taskforce Reports**

**COVID19 Taskforce**

Reviewing criteria for meetings in person, Bonney noted that masks should be worn for small and large UU-sponsored indoor gatherings. Dan emphasized that a higher standard for UU events takes account of a commitment to inclusiveness, noting that Mexican adults will not be fully vaccinated until October. He cautioned against vaccinated UUs flouting the need for masks in the SMA community. Chris moved to accept these recommendations for UU-sponsored small groups and requested guidelines for hybrid meetings of in-person gatherings that include participants on Zoom. Jurgen seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Noting the likelihood of full vaccinations for all adults by October, the board discussed a motion to hold a live Sunday service at the Aldea on October 24 with safety precautions as advised by the Taskforce. The Sunday Service technical team would start broadcasting without an audience a month earlier. Jurgen seconded the motion and asked for implementation guidelines from the Covid Taskforce. The motion passed unanimously.

**Care Team**

No updates reported

**Membership Committee**

No updates reported.

**Welcoming Congregation**

The June 6 Pride Service was noted as an important accomplishment.

**Children’s Education Program**

No updates reported.

**Sunday Service Committee**

Paula and Chris will present a proposal to the July board meeting for a masked outdoor music event in mid-to-late August. Paula noted that new equipment to continue online broadcasting when indoor meetings resume will require a budget of $1,650 for necessary equipment.

Ron Lenox has become a member of the Sunday Service Committee. Paula and Ron will explore a joint purchase of cameras for event-broadcasting by UUFSMA and the Rotary Club. Paula also attributed to “Zoom fatigue” the decline in average Sunday Service Zoom participation from 120 households through much of 2020 to 70-plus households in 2021. The Sunday Service team will meet with Rayna at the Hotel to discuss details of both the August event and resumption of in-person services in October.

**Social Action Committee**

A clear definition is needed for the timeframe and method of allocation of funds for social action grants. On a motion by Bill and a second by Chris, the board unanimously agreed to allocate to social action grants fifty percent of income recorded at the end of the annual pledge drive and fifty percent of the projected Sunday basket collection included in the annual budget. Allocations from the reserve fund or grants received would not be included in this income calculation.

Becky reported the need for a dedicated coordinator to track the work of UUFSMA volunteers assisting NGOs. SAC members will visit CEDESA in July. There are two openings for board members to join the visit. Dan has been working on a member survey on our social action/justice activities and grantmaking with SAC input. Distribution of this survey will follow focus group discussions (see COM below).

**Endowment Committee**

Ellie Goodwin said that personal information about donors to the Endowment is being solicited. Gary said that the committee will present three seminars on planned-giving related to tax and other issues affecting residents of Mexico, the United States, and Canada.

**Nominating Committee**

No updates reported.

**Widening the Circle of Concern Taskforce**

Twenty-five participants divided into three small groups, with two facilitators for each group, have been identified. The groups will start meeting this month.

**Committee on Ministry**

The committee focused on the Minister in Residence program during its May 19 meeting. Frank Thoms resigned from the committee, and Christie McGue joined the committee and has begun researching sources of funding. Dan recommended that Bill confer with Becky about plans for focus groups to consider both the Minister in Residence program and our social action grants.

**Finance Committee**

Commenting on the reduced number of members recorded in the May financial report, Bill noted that UUFSMA bylaws do not limit membership to individuals making annual pledges. Gary indicated that the lower number in the financial report probably reflects pledging members only. Dan pointed out that the member total reported at the 2021 annual meeting reflected the total of pledging members in 2020 plus new members through the end of 2020, and that the current member total may be less.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Budget report for May 2021 was presented without discussion.

**Minister’s Report**

No report presented due to Tom Rosiello’s absence for travel.

**Old Business**

**Administrative staff**

Dan asked Board members to volunteer for administrative management meetings in July, August, and December.

**Envisioning the Future Report**

No new items

**New Business**

**UU General Assembly 2021**

Dan, Chris, Paula, Helen Rivas-Rose, and Judith Jenya will attend as delegates. Dan will meet with delegates to preview issues, including a contested election for one UUA board position, bylaw amendments and other issues that may arise.

**UUFSMA Mission Statement**

Based on a member’s input, Dan asked the board to consider whether the current mission statement acknowledges fellowship goals for reaching out to the Mexican community. He noted the current statement implies there are two separate communities, a primary community of expats and a secondary, outside community. Dan moved, Becky seconded, and the board agreed unanimously to a mission revision to be circulated to members, as follows:

“The Mission of this Fellowship is to serve the spirit as each individual understands it; to serve the educational and pastoral needs of our multicultural community; and to initiate and promote actions that further social, economic and environmental justice.”

Dan will put forward this revision to our membership for a vote of approval.

**Proposal for 2022 Annual Meeting**

To allow a more efficient and democratic budget discussion, Dan proposed a division of the annual meeting into two sections, one session in early March dealing with the budget a second session later in the month for an up or down vote on the amended budget. Bill recommended the first session be billed as a Board presentation and defense of the budget, followed by a period for submitting amendments, and a subsequent meeting for an up-or-down vote on the amended budget. Dan will propose a revised budget adoption process at the July board meeting.

The agenda completed; Dan adjourned the meeting at 3:30 pm CTZ.

Upcoming 2021 Board Meetings are scheduled for Thursdays at 1:00 pm CTZ on: July 8, August 12, September 9, October 14, November 11, and December 9. Becky will provide Opening Words for the July 8 meeting.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Board Secretary Joseph Plummer