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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**(Conducted via Zoom)**

**July 8, 2021**

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

**Members Absent**: Joan Wolf, Christie McGue

**Guests**: Cathy Cánepa, Ellie Goodwin, Margo Johnson

**Opening words**: Becky Langrall read the poem *A Space Between* by Stephen Shick.

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by President Dan Neuspiel at 1:02 p.m.

On Gary Belkin’s motion and Bill Dalsimer’s second, the meeting agenda was approved as submitted.

Dan clarified that for 2020, UUFSMA reported calendar-year pledging members to the Unitarian Universalist Association. Effective end-of-year 2021, we will report all members to the UUA, according to our new definition of membership approved at the 2021 annual meeting. Minutes of the June 10, 2021 Board Meeting were approved on a motion by Jurgen Ahlers and a second by Gary Belkin.

**President’s Report**

Dan noted the high level of membership interest in the recent vote on revision of the fellowship’s mission statement and the fruitfulness of the UU General Assembly, both of which he reserved for further comment later in the meeting.

**Committee and Taskforce Reports**

**Covid-19 Task Force**

Bonney McDowell noted the increase in cases of Covid-19 in Mexico and the United States, reported that in Mexico everyone 18-years and older can now register for Covid vaccinations, and said a date for return of the government’s vaccination campaign to San Miguel is not yet announced.

**Care Team**

Tom Rosiello reported that members of the team are being recruited to present Joys, Sorrows, and Concerns during the Sunday Service at least once a month. He also noted the generous response of the team to support Joan Wolf following the death of her husband.

**Membership Committee**

Chris reported that Marjorie Burren has become a new member of the fellowship.

**Welcoming Committee**

No new items

**Children’s Education Program**

Chris reported that Susan MacDonnell, a minister relocating to SMA, has volunteered to assist with the program.

**Sunday Service Committee**

Cathy Cánepa summarized discussions with the Aldea Hotel regarding an outdoor, social gathering of the Fellowship. After discussion, on a motion by Jurgen Ahlers and a second by Chris, the event was scheduled for Wednesday, August 25, 2021, at 2:30 pm. Thursday, August 26 was designated as a backup date in case of rain. (After the meeting, the time was changed to 6:30 pm.)

In reviewing the budget for the resumption of in-house Sunday Services, Dan requested that Diego Vargas comment on the technical requirements for video monitors as a basis for comparing the committee’s budget request with lower prices advertised in local stores. Tom noted that the Lake Chapala UUF has recently purchased monitors and could offer advice. Dan noted that UUFSMA bylaws allow the board discretionary use of reserve funds for up to ten percent of the annual budget, an amount more than adequate for financing the expenses anticipated in the return to in-person services and continuing Zoom-casts of services. On a motion by Joseph and a second by Bill, the proposed outlay of approximately $4,700 for the transition expenses was unanimously approved.

**Social Action Committee**

Becky Langrall briefed the board on the current work of UU the Vote in collaboration with Vote Forward and will present a proposal for UUFSMA participation prior to the August board meeting. The board also discussed a possible collaboration with the Center for Global Justice to form a book club focused on the environment. Ann Geyer is a new member of the committee.

**Endowment Committee**

Gary reported total endowment funding of approximately $40,000 as of June 22, including a recent addition of $1,850. A two-part UUFSMA webinar on Estate Planning and Planned Giving will be broadcast online this month.

**Nominating Committee**

No new items

**Widening the Circle of Concern Taskforce**

Three small groups are actively meeting. Discussions of the taskforce’s goals and activities will appear in the UUFSMA newsletter.

**Committee on Ministry**

Bill provided a brief update of the committee’s work on the Ministry in Residence, noting that Christie McGue is doing research on potential sources of funding for the project and that Arlene van Note is providing guidance to its work. Dan noted that, except for chair and co-chair, the committee can appoint members without board approval.

**Finance Committee**

Margo noted the committee continues to work with Gary on a structure for easier to understand financial reports.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Gary noted that the June 2021 budget report to the board uses current exchange rates between dollars and pesos, and that monthly reports going forward will do the same. He also noted that current revenue from collections are in line with amounts received at this time in prior years.

**Minister’s Report**

Tom requested feedback on the draft of a letter addressing the ministerial residency program, ministerial succession and a concern among members that ministerial and social justice programming are separate and fiscally oppositional elements of the Fellowship’s spiritual mission. Board members offered numerous suggestions related to the draft’s length, content, and organization while also considering its function as an invitation to members for discussions to be organized after its distribution to the Fellowship. Margo volunteered to edit the draft.

**Old Business**

**Mission Statement**

Dan noted useful feedback from a recent poll of members and said that the current UUFSMA mission statement will remain in effect for now, with the possibility of considering a revision after September 2021.

**Administrative Staff**

Dan requested that board members volunteer to attend upcoming Tuesday management meetings.

**New Business**

**2021 General Assembly Report**

Dan reported that UUFSMA attendees at the UUA Virtual General Assembly met for a debriefing. Actions of the assembly related to UUA governance, experiences in workshops and worship sessions, as well as statements of immediate witness on voting rights, transgender legislation, and Israeli aggression against Palestine will be described in a newsletter article and at a Sunday Service in September.

**Proposed 2022 Annual Budget Process**

The board reviewed recommended changes in the process and proposed that they be explained in a newsletter article. The rationale for this proposal is to allow members to have more time to provide input on the proposed annual budget and to have a more efficient and meaningful annual general meeting.

The proposal is as follows:

1. After the conclusion of the 2022 pledge drive, the Board will have its usual meeting to finalize the budget to be presented to members on Thursday, 3/3/2022. This preliminary budget will be distributed to members by 3/4/2022.
2. A membership Budget Hearing will be scheduled after the Sunday service on 3/13/2022. This hearing, which will have been publicized to members for at least 1 month prior, will be an opportunity for members to comment on the proposed budget and give them an opportunity to amend it.
3. If necessary, the Board will have a special meeting on Thursday, March 17 to revise and finalize the budget based on member input at the Budget Hearing. That final budget will be distributed to members via email.
4. The Annual General Meeting will occur on Sunday, March 27, 2022, after the Sunday service. At that time, members will be able to vote yes or no on the final budget, but amendments will not be accepted.
5. In the unlikely circumstance that the budget is rejected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting, the Board will reconsider the budget at its regular April meeting and plan a special budget hearing and special general membership meeting to vote upon a new budget at times TBA.

Jurgen moved for adoption of the recommendations, Gary seconded the motion, and the board approved them unanimously.

**Program Council**

The board discussed formation of a Program Council whose members would be chairs and co-chairs of UUFSMA committees, task forces and teams. It would meet on a regular basis, perhaps quarterly. The council could promote awareness of programs among fellowship leaders, expedite creation and distribution of team and committee reports, build consensus among UUFSMA leaders, avoid duplicative and competing efforts, and create venues for members to become active in the fellowship. Bill, Chris, and Becky agreed to draft a proposal to present during the August board meeting.

Upcoming 2021 Monthly Board Meetings: second Thursdays at 1 PM CTZ

Aug 12 (Opening Words, Dan); Sep 9 (Opening Words, Bill); Oct 14 (Opening Words, Volunteer needed); Nov 11 (Opening Words Volunteer needed); Dec 9 (Opening Words, Volunteer needed)

The agenda completed; the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Board Secretary Joseph Plummer.