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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**(Conducted via Zoom)**

**October 14, 2021**

**All 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, Christie McGue, Joan Wolf; Rev. Tom Rosiello, Ex-Officio

**Guests:** Eleanor Goodwin, Margo Johnson, Paula Peace, John Simsarian, Ed Short, Cliff DuRand, Dick Snyder

A quorum present, President Dan Neuspiel called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Jurgen Ahlers presented **Opening Words** from Howard Zinn (“Being Hopeful in Bad Times”) and Alan Alda (“Becoming More Empathic”).

On Jurgen’s motion and Bill Dalsimer’s second, the board approved the **Meeting** **Agenda** as submitted.

On Christie McGue’s motion and Jurgen’s second, the board approved the **Minutes of the September 9, 2021, Board Meeting**.

**President’s Report**

Dan, Bill, and Chris Chase will confer with two leaders of the UU Southern Region about a program to heal divisions within UUFSMA and report to the board on their recommendations.

**Committee and Taskforce Reports**

**Covid-19 Taskforce**

Bonney reported that the taskforce is working with the Sunday Service Committee to finalize guidelines for in-person attendees at Sunday Services in the Aldea Hotel beginning October 24.

**Care Team**

Joan Wolf reported that the team held its first in-person meeting since the beginning of the pandemic. She also reported that Donna Shubrooks continues to recover from her illness.

**Membership Committee**

Chris reported on the draft Disruptive Behavior Policy, which focuses on safety issues for adults and children and disruptions to fellowship activities. The committee proposes appointment of a conflict management team. After board discussion of the timing of implementation, Chris proposed additional committee review of de-escalation training as part of implementation and agreed to resume the board’s review at a future meeting.

**Welcoming Congregation**

No new business

**Children’s Education Program**

No new business

**Sunday Service Committee**

Paula reported that the committee has spent $2,850 on equipment for the continued Zoom-casting during return to in-person services. The Aldea has presented a new contract, which will be reviewed. A new florist will provide flowers for Sunday services. Two ushers will greet attendees in the Aldea courtyard. Two will be stationed at the top of the interior stairs. Two ushers will also assist attendees inside the service hall. Dan will conduct a Zoom-training for ushers. N-95 masks will be required of all attendees. Fans are needed for air circulation.

**Social Action Committee**

Asking for Board assistance with proposed language, Becky reported that, during the March 13, 2022, Annual Membership Budget Hearing, the social action committee intends to propose a change to the Board’s Grant-funding Resolution of February 2020 and UUFSMA bylaws. The proposed motion would specify that “at least 50 percent of the [UUFSMA] operating budget” be used to fund grants for NGOs. . .” while excluding from the budget assessment several categories of revenue and expense.

Dan recommended that the board budget resolution and the bylaw amendment be discussed as separate items. Becky then proposed a motion that the language of the 2020 board resolution be changed for the 2022 Budget, as described above and in SAC’s report appended to this meeting’s agenda. Jurgen then seconded the motion. Discussion highlighted several minor modifications, Gary requested time to review the proposal, and the motion was tabled until the November board meeting.

**Endowment Committee**

Michael Hertz received board approval to fill a vacancy on the Committee.

**Nominating Committee**

John Simsarian noted the committee will begin its work this month.

**Widening the Circle of Concern**

No new business

**Committee on Ministry**

Bill summarized the committee’s review of the recorded notes from the small group discussions of the Minister in Residence program. Noting the lack of a mandate from the discussion groups, Dan proposed a new task force on the future of ministry that reflects the diverse opinions heard from the groups and that is as representative of membership as possible. It would be charged with assessing the opinions of members about the future of UUFSMA ministry, willingness to pay for the project, and other issues related to professional ministry, including the planning process and breadth of the definition of ministry. Becky proposed that the work of the 2018 focus group on ministry be used as a taskforce resource.

**Finance Committee**

No new business

**Treasurer’s Report**

Gary Belkin reported that members’ annual pledges have been nearly completed, bolstering the outlook for a positive completion of the 2021 budget year. The unauthorized payment from Frost Bank has been resolved with the funds restored and a new account established. The new account number will be communicated to the fellowship.

**Minister’s Report**

Tom Rosiello noted that he reflected during his vacation on whether his vision of the fellowship matches the fellowship’s vision for itself and will continue to confer with others on this concern.

**Old Business**

**Administrative Staff**

Becky will join Chris for the November 16 management meeting.

**New Business**

**Guidelines on Committee Proposals**

Dan restated that, as committees of the board, all UUFSMA committees must operate within their specific jurisdictions and cannot propose their own motions to the membership that have been rejected by the board. After discussion, Dan suggested that adoption of the guidelines be deferred until the working group for the proposed program council has met.

**Program Council**

The working group for the council will meet and report to the November board meeting.

**Closing Remarks**

Dan stated that, because of health concerns, he will not run for the position of Board President in 2022. John noted that the Nominating Committee had unanimously decided to renominate Dan for the position.

**Upcoming Board Meetings**

Second Thursdays at 1 P.M. CTZ

Nov 11, 2021

Dec 9, 2021

Jan 13, 2022

Feb 10, 2022

Mar 3, 2022

More volunteers are needed for opening words. The proposed regathering of the board in person will be decided monthly.

Annual Membership Budget Hearing: Sunday, Mar 13, 2022, 1:00 PM

Annual Membership Meeting: Sunday, Mar 27, 2022, 1:00 PM

The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 P.M.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Board Secretary Joseph Plummer