Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Miguel de Allende

Board of Directors Meeting

(Conducted via Zoom)

November 10, 2022

**Members Present:** Margo Johnson, President; William Dalsimer, First Vice President; Gary Belkin, Treasurer; Jurgen Ahlers, Chris Chase, Michael Murphy; Carolyn Simsarian; Jane Wilkinson; Reverend Tom Rosiello, Ex-Officio

**Members Absent:** Christie McGue, Second Vice President; Joseph Plummer, Secretary.

**Guests:** Robin Loving, Dan Neuspiel, Paula Peace, John Simsarian

A quorum being present, Margo called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m., and the directors recited the Board Covenant.

On Gary Belkin’s motion and Jurgen Ahlers’s second, the board approved the meeting agenda as submitted. Minutes from the October meeting were not available as Joseph Plummer, Secretary was absent. Carolyn Simsarian agreed to take notes of this meeting.

Dan Neuspiel presented the recommendation from the Covid Task Force for members of the Fellowship meeting in small groups.

As of next week, the cap on the number of participants in indoor fellowship meetings will be lifted, with the following conditions:

1. Well fitted KN95, KF94 or surgical masks are recommended, but may be made optional by a covenantal agreement among all meeting participants.

2. Ventilation should be maximized by fans and open doors/windows.

3. The following individuals should not attend in person:

 a. If significant travel in the past 5 days;

 b. If experiencing ANY respiratory or other possible Covid symptoms; or

 c. If known exposure to Covid in the past 5 days; or

 d. If not having received at least 2 primary Covid vaccines and 1 booster vaccine.

The proposal of guidelines for small groups was presented by Dan, Jurgen moved and Michael seconded the proposal. The motion passed with 6 in favor and 1 opposed

The issue was raised as to whether masks would continue to be used at Sunday Services.

Dan stated a poll had been taken of the Fellowship indicating the majority favored the continued use of masks. Therefore, the Task Force did not have a recommendation at this point and he proposed we continue to wear masks at Sunday Service. A motion to continue to mask at Sunday Services passed with 4 in favor and 3 against.

John Simsarian gave a report as chair of the Nominating Committee. Everyone in Mexico is required to have an RFC number and register for tax purposes. Margo reported the deadline to register has been extended until March. Members who do not have the RFC would be eligible to be Board Members, but not officers.

Chris gave a report on a Right Relations document being drafted in committee. She asked recommendations and/or changes be submitted in writing to the committee.

Dan has been meeting with a committee to redraft the ACTA and the By-Laws. The Board discussed the discrepancy between the two documents in terms of the definition of membership in the Fellowship and whether a monetary contribution was necessary to be a member. If so, can someone be considered a voting member, if they have not pledged. The ACTA states that this is a requirement, but the By-Laws were amended to do away with this requirement. On a motion by Jurgen and seconded by Chris the board voted to follow the By-laws procedure used at the last annual meeting, so all members will be eligible to vote at the December 11 member meeting. The motion passed with 5 voting in favor, 1 opposed, and 1 abstention.

Margo requested budget figures from all committees be submitted to Gary by November 30.

There was discussion about aspects of the Sunday Service relative to Coffee Hour, Greeting and Ushering which are all important to the overall service. New members will be asked to serve as ushers allowing them to feel an immediate connection to the Fellowship.

Robin gave a report on the Thirty-five and Thriving Campaign. The initial fun(d)-raising event held last weekend was a garage sale and was hugely successful, raising $1,200.

Gary gave the Treasurer’s Report for January 1-October 31, 2022. Questions were raised as to how to determine what funding would be available for the SAC to recommend distribution to NGOs. The Board was reminded while it makes a recommendation, the Fellowship membership votes on finalizing the budget at the March Annual Meeting. The Board will be providing the SAC with the projected NGO funding amount.

Discussion took place regarding the projected end of year funding and the expenses. Gary reported an unsolicited donation of $22,000 for the proposed Minister in Residence program was received The donor will be thanked.

Gary reported there has been another breach of the Frost Bank Account. A move of the Fellowship account to another bank will be made soon. On a motion by Jane and seconded by Jurgen the Board accepted the Treasurer’s Report.

Jane reported a request from the SAC Committee for two Blue Plate Special collections in 2023. The Board approved a January BPS for ABBA House, and an April BPS collection for Audubon.

Tom reported there was a great line up of guest ministers for future Sunday Services.

Bill reported we would have a common book read in March. The title is “Common Mistakes and Miracles” by Nancy Palmer Jones. Copies are available on Kindle. Tom has two printed copies.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm.