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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**(Conducted via Zoom)**

**November 11, 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:** Ellie Goodwin, Margo Johnson, Paula Peace

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

Dan provided **Opening Words** from Eric Walker Wickstrom describing the work of a UU Fellowship.

Joseph moved, Gary seconded, and the Board approved the meeting **Agenda** as amended to include discussion of the UUFSMA Google Listserv Group.

Jurgen moved, Gary seconded, and the Board approved without amendment **Minutes from October 14, 2021, Board Meeting**.

**President’s Report**

Dan noted ushers at the Aldea for Sunday Services appear to be exuberant and talkative while performing their duties effectively. In an October 22 Zoom conference, Natalie Briscoe and Christine Purcell of the UU Southern Region were supportive of efforts to mend divisions in UUFSMA but offered no new directions for those efforts. Dan met with the newly assembled Taskforce on the Future of Ministry and is a regular attendee at meetings of the Covid-19 Task Force. He noted the upcoming UUA conference on December 11 and 12 for which invitations have been sent.

**Committee and Taskforce Reports**

**COVID19 Taskforce**

Bonney noted that recommendations for health safety at in-person Sunday Services are being followed. Board discussion explored ways to encourage more attendance at in-person services while avoiding having to turn people away. Bonney also noted the importance of recording the names of attendees for potential tracing of Covid-19 exposure. Two members are known to have experienced break-through infections.

**Care Team**

Joan discussed privacy issues related to reporting on the Care Team’s work, especially to account for complex health situations of some members that are not widely known within the fellowship. The team has met once in a well-ventilated indoor space. Policy remains that not more than 5 people should meet indoors. Tom will pay for medicines through the minister’s discretionary fund for one member who cannot afford the cost.

**Membership Committee**

Chris reported that Diana Amaya is maintaining the list of members and tracking the length of individuals’ membership. Dan recommended current distributions of the updated directory.

**Welcoming Congregation**

No new business

**Children’s Education Program**

No new business

**Sunday Service Committee**

Paula reported that the committee intends to hang one of two new 70 inch video monitors in the left side of the Aldea Sunday Service room. The hotel is constructing a storage room where the monitors can be stored on their rolling stands. The new “self-directed” Sunday Service Teams will present their first services in December and January. Paula will vacate her chairpersonship of the Sunday Service Committee in early 2022. Dan recommended a draft resolution for continued Sunday Zoom Service (and other event) broadcasting at the March 2022 Annual Meeting. Tom congratulated the committee for technical accomplishments in adapting Sunday Services to Zoom-casting.

**Social Action Committee**

Becky announced that she will step down as chair of the committee in 2022. She reported that 14 applicants have requested SAC grants for the 2022 cycle of awards. She requested a ballpark estimate of grant funding available for 2022. A preliminary estimate will be discussed in December. She also requested a reimbursement for Stan Allen for the cost of a video produced about his recent award for humanitarian work at ABBA House. Recognition of Stan’s service will be made during the November 21 Sunday Service.

Paula asked whether members of SAC will seek a change in UUFSMA bylaws regarding grant levels during the 2022 annual meeting. Becky said there is no unanimous SAC position for a bylaw change, and the proposal has been set aside. However, individuals can seek a vote on a bylaw amendment after obtaining support for such a petition from ten percent of the members.

**Endowment Committee**

Joanna Kafarowski resigned from the committee, and, while recommendations for candidates for the committee are welcome, the position may remain vacant until the 2022 annual meeting. Gary noted the need to maintain endowment contribution records and investment reports and to clarify the authority for disbursements. Dan noted that UUFSMA bylaws state that the committee can recommend disbursements, while the Board reviews those recommendations, and the membership decides whether to disburse funds. Tom recommended more members-only access at UUFSMA.org for endowment information, the annual member list, and fellowship bylaws.

**Nominating Committee**

No new business

**Widening the Circle of Concern Taskforce**

All three groups training through the taskforce have completed half the course.

**Committee on Ministry**

Bill reported that draft suggestions for the Minister in Residence program will be distributed to the Board and the Task Force on the Future of Ministry. The committee recommends wide circulation of this material among the fellowship. Dan noted that the taskforce on ministry should review this report prior to distribution.

**Taskforce on Future of Ministry**

Margo reported that the taskforce is discussing information needed from the membership, questions to ask, and means for gathering responses.

**Finance**

**Finance Committee**

Budget preparation begins in December, and requests for new expenses need to be identified.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Gary reported that 100 percent of U.S. dollar pledges have been received, although pesos collections are somewhat behind schedule. The status of expenses and revenues remain in line with the 2021 budget, promising a satisfying ending for the current fiscal year. He also requested spending and revenue projections from committees and programs for the new fiscal year. Diana Amaya needs a filing cabinet. Frost Bank issues have been resolved with a few items still being finished. Dan noted that Bill and Joseph have received Mexican visas, and documents for the new ACTA are being prepared for registration with the Mexican government. Once approved, the ACTA will allow UUFSMA to gain full privileges with Mexican banks. Joan celebrated the successful management of UUFSMA finances throughout the revenue crisis brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Minister’s Report**

Tom reported on his recent UU dedication ceremony for a child in San Miguel and the response of Mexican families who manifested a hunger for Unitarian Universalism. He asked whether UUFSMA has the desire to minister to this need and restated his desire to be part of an organization moving forward to meet such needs. While thinking when he returned from Europe that he would resign, he has been heartened by support received here since then and feels more hopeful. He won’t teach courses again until there is ministerial support to ease his workload but will continue to focus on pastoral care and Sunday services. Dan recommended a special Sunday Service collection for the minister’s discretionary fund. Bonney encouraged Tom to communicate his experience with Mexican families to the fellowship.

**Old Business**

**Administrative staff**

More board volunteers are needed for upcoming Tuesday management meetings.

**New Business**

**Program Council**

The council intends to organize a meeting in coming weeks.

**Fundraiser**

Chris announced an offer of small paintings to auction online for UUFSMA, and the board consensus was to direct these funds for the Minister’s Discretionary Fund. A volunteer to organize the auction is needed.

**Google List Serve**

Bill asked whether the listserv requires a monitor. Dan expressed misgivings over attacks on individuals that violate UU principles of right relationships. Discussion produced a consensus that the group should monitor itself.

**Upcoming Board Meetings, 2nd Thursdays at 1 PM.**

Dec 9, 2021 (Christie opening words)

Volunteers for opening words are needed for these meetings:

Jan 13, 2022

Feb 10, 2022

Mar 3, 2022

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:18 pm

Minutes recorded and submitted by Board Secretary Joseph Plummer