



# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Miguel de Allende

## UUFSMA Board Meeting Minutes December 12, 2023 ~~ 3:00pm

**Present** – Allen Zeesman, Susan MacDonnell, Chris Chase, Sara Rutherford, Tom Rosiello, Phyllis Vince, Michael Murphy, Dianne Dailey, Jurgen Ahlers, Anne Geyer, Paola Turandot

**Guests-** Paul Peace, Dan Neuspiel

**(Board meetings will be recorded, beginning at 3:00 pm)**

### Opening Words

#### Recitation of Board Covenant (recite in unison)

As members of the UUFSMA Board of Directors, we share the responsibility of representing *all* members of our Fellowship. In this capacity, we practice *deep listening* as varying positions, or issues, are presented for the Board's action. We pledge in all our dealings to honor and reflect our UU Principles, and to speak with *one voice* - once the Board has decided on any given issue.

#### Approval of Minutes from November 21, 2023 Board Meeting and email votes from November 8, 2023

Moved: Chris chase, Second Michael Murphy

Approved unanimously with minor grammar corrections.

#### Executive Report Highlights

**Allen Zeesman** reported on his positive interactions with visitors at Sunday services, would like more participation and focus on hosting/greeting by board members. Jurgen suggests letting people at welcome table that you're there and willing to meet visitors.

**Sara Rutherford** still working to get Breeze up and running, will begin testing payment methods.

**Phyllis Vince reported on the November expense and YTD report.** Budget report attached.

#### 2024 Budget approval process (Allen Zeesman)

Discussion of the process for finalizing a 2024 budget, in line with recently passed process involving a three-part series of meetings.

There was agreement on the changes needed in this process to conform with need for the first and third meetings to be meetings of the full Membership. Amended process will be presented to Board for an email vote to approve the changes.

Allen Zeesman and Susan MacDonnell will meet in the coming week to develop a timeline and plan for the required Membership and Board meetings to approve a 2024 Budget.

Dan reminded the board that there will be no approved budget for Jan 2024. Need to ask membership to pass a budget continuation, similar to last year.

Dan will send a survey to the membership asking for a vote to APPROVE or REJECT a continuation budget for Quarter 1 of 2024, using the budget for Quarter 1 of 2023.

### **Discussion of UUSFSMA Google Group and creation of policy/rules for participation**

This conversation regarding establishing firmer rules/expectations follows weeks of negative and inaccurate communications from a small number of members on the GG email. While there has been a dramatic increase in negativity recently, the problem has been ongoing. Since the GoogleGroup is a creation of the UUSFSMA as a service to members, Allen and Paula are requesting intervention by the board to address the abuses.

Discussion included :

- Chris drew attention to what is the fine print at bottom of the GG screen, outlining rules of use and the behavior expectations.
- Discontinue Google Group entirely, or close it down now and rebuild it at beginning of 2024.
- Do not distribute official UUSFSMA communications (board and member notices, etc) through Google Group. These would only come directly to members via email and/or newsletter.
- Have one or more people monitor posts, communicate with Ivan Mendez to ask for removal of specific posts as necessary.
- Pre-approval of posts – a 24-hour review process as many GGs use. This would be time and energy consuming, probably not sustainable.
- Paula Peace suggested that monitoring/removal sounds like a Healthy Community Teams task. For reasons of HCT members at this point in time, this would be difficult to sustain.
- Chris – add language to the GG rules to direct members to specific contact with the Board if there are issues they want to raise or get clarity on. Board, through President, would commit to responding to all who contact him (and making the reply public somehow?)

Anne Geyer and Paula Peace volunteered to co-write a statement about deactivating the Google Group for a short time, in order to revise rules of engagement.

**Motion** made by Chris Chase: To shut down the UUSFSMA Google Group as soon as there is finalized statement written and approved for distribution to members under Allen Zeesman's name as President.

Second by Phyllis Vince, unanimous. (Reversed by email vote, Dec. 30, 2023)

### **Motion to adjourn**

Moved by Michael Murphy

Second by Chris Chase

Meeting adjourned 5:20 pm

### **January 5, 2023**

By electronic vote, a quorum of members voted to endorse the following amendment proposed to the UUA.

MOTION: to endorse the following proposal submitted to the UUA to amend the UUA statement of values, adding Peace as a UU value.

## The amendment

Mac Goekler

UUs of Southern Delaware (Lewes DE)

UU Peace Ministry Network (President)

330 696 0050

### **A three-part amendment**

**Title: Peace as a UU Value – Goekler**

Section C-2.2 Values and Covenant

Part 1: *Line 20* Delete these and insert our “Inseparable from one another, our shared values are:

Part 2: *Line 21* Add Peace to the graphic as a petal/oval

Part 3: *Line 45* Add **Peace** as a Value

“**Peace.** We dedicate ourselves to peaceful conflict resolution at all levels.”

Covenant (Peace)

“We covenant to promote a peaceful world community with liberty and human rights

for all. Whenever and wherever possible we will use nonviolent means to achieve peace.”

Minutes of December 12, 2023, and minutes of an electronic vote of Dec. 5, 2023, approved by unanimous vote at the regular board meeting on January 16, 2024.

Respectfully submitted

Susan MacDonnell, Secretary