

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia

Board of Trustees

Minutes of April 15, 2020 Meeting (updated/corrected)

Attendance

Linda Brennison (President), Rod Brown (President-Elect), Bob Gillespie (Secretary), Jeanette Walton (Treasurer), Terrence Sullivan, John Logue, Jessica Kross, Deb Matherly and Pat Mohr, all via Zoom. Also via Zoom: Caroline Eastman (*Ex Officio* as Chair, Finance Committee) and Tim VanDenBerg (*Ex Officio* as Past President).

Call to Order

Linda Brennison called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Pat Mohr lit the chalice and read from “Existential Anxiety” by Elizabeth Kubler-Ross.

Consent Agenda

The Board approved the agenda and also the consent agenda. The consent agenda included the Administrator’s Report, DRE, Committee Reports, February board meeting minutes and Liaison to Committee Reports (as submitted).

Financial Statements & Treasurer’s Report

Jeanette Walton reported cash receipts are down, especially for Share The Plate, since mid-March’s cessation of in-person services due to COVID-19. Walton said pledges also are slightly off-schedule, with half of March impacted. Linda Brennison said full effects will likely be seen in April; staff is still being paid and there are no layoffs.

Old Business

Tree Removal

John Logue reported he has contacted the removal firm Uncle Willie. Linda Brennison reported gutters have been cleaned and the tree removal will occur next.

Security Grant

Pat Mohr reported that Nancie Shillington-Perez has encountered computer problems in submitting the security grant information, and Mohr will be helping in the process.

LDC Nominees Update

Jessica Kross reported candidates have been identified for all positions except President-Elect. Nominees will be voted on at the Congregation’s annual meeting May 31.

UUCG To Remain Closed

The Board approved continuing cancellation of activities in the UUCC facility until further notice. Andrea Dudick will place notice of that decision in the Unigram. Committee meetings will continue via Zoom.

Pledge Drive Update

Pledges received as of April 15, 2020, were \$173,112.87, compared to \$189,430 at a comparable date in 2019. Members are urged to email their pledge amounts to the Administrator at uucc@uucolumbia.org. Projected pledges are calculated to be \$212,489.87, or approximately \$21,000 below the pledge goal made prior to COVID-19.

New Business

Update on On-line Giving via Vanco

Linda Brennison reported Ginny Verne, Andrea Dudick and Laura Hartwig are working on this method, which UUA says improves giving. Brennison said on-line giving will be instituted. Vanco was approved to set up the online giving process.

Paycheck Protection Loan

The Board was informed by BB&T/Truist that UUCC's application for a Paycheck Protection Loan will likely not be fulfilled. Such a loan, if approved, would've provided UUCC with approximately \$30,000 to be used for payroll, mortgage payments or rent and, if used under those conditions, would've been forgiven. The bank offered to contact the Board if circumstances change and said it "remain(s) committed to finding other ways to help."

Annual Meeting

The Board approved creation of an ad hoc committee to explore ways to remotely hold the annual meeting May 31. Linda Brennison, Bob Gillespie, Terrence Sullivan and Pat Mohr were named to the committee, with Zoom assistance by Phil Turner.

2020-21 Budget

The Board reviewed a first draft of the budget and later approved by email vote a reduction of the proposed budget from \$233,000 to \$212,000 due to projected pledge shortfalls. To meet those reductions, committee budgets will be cut by 50 percent, excepting Building & Grounds, The Partner Church, the Worship Committee and a portion of the Finance Committee budget used for mailing pledge statements. To avoid cutting salaries, the Board also reduced the UUA's Annual Program Fund donation, though the Board hopes to make a larger contribution to UUA if circumstances change.

New Finance Committee Members

Following the regular meeting, the Board approved via unanimous email vote the additions of Deb Matherly and Beth Ann Rochambeau to the Finance Committee.

May Chalice Lighter

Rod Brown volunteered as chalice lighter for the May board meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Submitted by: Bob Gillespie, Secretary

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