

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia

Final MINUTES Board of Trustees Meeting, Nov 15, 2023 (approved Dec 20, 2023)

Attendance

Marc Drews (President*)

John Logue (President-Elect*)

Karen Brown (Secretary*)

Jeanette Walton (Treasurer*)

Board Members, in-person: Regina Moody, Nancie Shillington-Pérez, Susan Legacy, George Johnson, Rev. Stephen Robinson (Minister**)

Not Present: Deb Matherly (Past President**), Ginny Verne (Finance Chair**)

Visitors: Tom Clements (Personnel Committee Chair)

*Executive Committee; **Ex Officio

Call to order

Marc (President) called the meeting to order at 2:31pm. The meeting was held online over Zoom.

Chalice lighting

Regina lit the chalice and read a poem, *Beginners*, by Denise Levertov.

Covenant and check-in

We will treat each other as we would wish to be treated by listening to the opinions of all members with equal respect and responding in a kind and thoughtful manner.

APPROVALS

Accept the agenda

Nancie moved to accept the November 2023 agenda (seconded, carried).

Approve the minutes

John L moved to accept the October 2023 minutes as amended (seconded, carried).

Consent agenda

John L moved to accept the consent agenda, including October Committee Reports, September and October Revenues and Expenses Reports, Restricted Funds and Balance Sheets (seconded, approved).

UPDATES

From the President

Marc reported that the Personnel Committee had submitted a motion to provide staff and minister with Christmas bonuses. He requested that Rev. Robinson mute his audio and leave the room for a few minutes so the board could discuss the motion in executive session. George moved that the board move to executive session (seconded, carried). After executive session, the Personnel Committee's motion was seconded, as slightly amended during executive session, to approve staff and minister bonuses for the net amount of \$975.00, after payroll taxes. The total amount including payroll taxes was estimated to be \$1055.79.

Treasurer's report

Jeanette (Treasurer) reported that a long-time member contributed \$10K to the general fund (in addition to the \$40K donation to the Endowment Fund). Another gift of \$10K may be coming from someone who is not a member. Pledges are coming in a little above what is expected for this time of year. We should probably set a threshold donation amount at which thank you letters are sent, perhaps \$250, to avoid overwhelming the Church Administrator with writing a lot of letters. Money for the piano was moved to the music reserve fund.

Minister's report

Rev. Robinson reported that worship services have been going very well in terms of participation, including visitors, and providing a welcoming space. We have had a lot of visitors. Visiting parents with children seem very interested in what UUCC has to offer. The CYRE Committee has done a great job in planning and bringing forth wonderful programs. Everyone is looking forward to the holiday pageant coming up on December 17th. There is a great deal of energy from the kids about performing and using the mic. The Christmas Eve service will be held during the regular worship service on Sunday. There have been a lot of caring needs recently, and the Caring Committee has been doing a great job connecting with people. Bill Dolley (Sexton) has returned to work after his surgery. CJ Johnson (Assistant Sexton) has done a great job filling in for Bill. Committee liaisons should remind their committees to consult the church calendar before planning events, and to be sure to coordinate events with Cyndi (Administrator).

Liaison Updates (see Committee Reports for other updates)

- Hospitality & Caring Committee – John L reported that the Committee is working with Membership to note anyone who has not been seen in a while, and to see if there are other ways they can support one another's work.
- Adult Religious Exploration Committee – Susan reported the Committee has developed a class-planning form to help plan ARE programs. Items listed on the form include title, content, publicity needs. Church calendar planning may need to be added.
- Denominational Connections – John L reported that the Committee would like the board to consider how it will select the delegates to vote at GA. Delegates might need to know what the congregation thinks about the upcoming GA issues, though UUCC has never directed delegates how to vote in the past. Committee Cochairs (Pat Mohr, Deb Matherly) collaborated with the President (Marc Drews) and Minister (Rev. Robinson) to work out a letter that was sent to the President of the UUA, requesting a meeting about the changes. The President delegated the matter to the Regional staff, who stated that they had already been in dialogue with two members of the congregation, and offered online links for additional information. John mentioned that a survey might be conducted to find out if people want to learn more, and how they feel about the issues. Karen noted that the vote on Article II is very important and consequential, and that perhaps we might consider asking people to recuse themselves from the vote if they don't really care and/or if they have not studied the issues. Marc suggested that small group conversations might be an effective way of engaging people in learning more.
- Technology Service Committee – Karen reported that Marc's announcement soliciting volunteers to help manage mics, cameras and streaming on Sundays resulted in one additional volunteer: Emilio Perez-Jorge. David Roof (TS Chair) would welcome a repeat of that announcement!
Cyndi (Administrator) has tweaked some of the options on the ACS online directory system to make it more user-friendly. Several board members who tried logging in reported having difficulty. It is possible we could use the ACS system as optional, though it would be needed for those who want to opt out of sharing specific information. Cyndi has said she can still individually email directories to members. It was noted that member status was not shown in directories (on the user side), and there are many people shown who we have not seen in a long time. Nancie explained how the member list was brought up to date before the annual meeting. Karen said she would find out how the friend list is kept current. Karen said Cyndi could create directories showing member status and email them to individuals, as needed or desired.

Updates from Ad Hoc Committees

- Bylaws Review Committee – George reported that the Committee has identified objectives and what each person on the committee will especially "read for." One objective is to remove operations instructions which can be better addressed by policy, or by individual committees.
- Committee on Archiving UUCC History – Regina reported that she has found copies of past bylaws (including 1959), minutes, and other records. Cyndi (Church Administrator) has digitized many of these for uploading to the website.

OLD BUSINESS

Motions before the board

LDC. Nancie moved to affirm the online email vote that took place Oct 23-26, naming Matthew Donahue as a member of the Leadership Development Committee through June 30, 2024 (seconded, carried). Nancie said she is now serving as the Interim LDC Committee Chair, with hope that Bonnie or Matthew might take over in six months.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Member resignation. Marc noted that Johnny Matchett is moving away, so he has resigned from the Board. Marc asked whether a motion is needed to decide whether to fill the vacant board position. The bylaws were amended at the June Annual meeting to reduce the number of people serving on the board and to make the Past President a voting member of the board and member of the executive committee. This change was anticipated to take place on July 1, assuming no one resigned before then. Nancie made a motion to move forward with the bylaws implementation, so that the board position is not filled, the past president now becomes a voting member of the board (not ex officio) and executive committee. (second, carried) Board members shared their warm wishes and thanks to Johnny.

Extinguish chalice and adjourn

In his last act on the Board, John M. extinguished the chalice and expressed appreciation for the Board's support. The December 20, 2023 meeting will be held over Zoom. The meeting was adjourned at 4:05pm.

The information below is not part of the formal minutes.

Karen Brown (Secretary) emailed "draft1 to president" of minutes to the President on Nov 16, 2023.

Secretary submitted "draft1 to board" to Board, Minister, Administrator, Bookkeeper, and Personnel Cmte on Nov 28, 2023.

Secretary submitted "draft2 to board" to Board, Minister, Administrator, Bookkeeper on Dec 13, 2023.

Secretary submitted board-approved final copy to board, Webmaster, Administrator, Bookkeeper, LDC & PCC on Jan 4, 2024.