

Unitarian Universalists of Mount Airy  
Monthly Board Meeting  
Sunday November 5, 2023  
Hale Lounge

Approved

PRESENT: Moderator Bruce Pollack-Johnson (BPJ); Assistant Moderator Catherine McCoubrey (CM) via Zoom; Treasurer Nicole Bartle (NB); Secretary Louise Speirs (LS). Trustees: Anne Arfaa (AA); Anam Owili-Eger (AOE) via Zoom; Stephen Workman (SW); Ministerial Intern Shaie Dively (SD); Minister McKinley Sims (MS)

ABSENT: Leslie Ferron-Smith (LFS)

CALL TO ORDER: 12:35

CHALICE LIGHTING: BPJ: May this light symbolize the light of inspiration for our decisions and the warmth of our love for our community

JOYS, SORROWS, CONCERNS: All

BRIEF UPDATES/REPORTS:

- Minutes of the Meeting: Board Meeting August 8, 2023; Board Meeting: Prospective Religious Educator September 14, 2023; Board Retreat/Meeting September 29 and 30, 2023; Town Hall Meeting October 15, 2023.
  - BPJ reviewed all minutes. Board discussed/agreed to include information regarding specific individuals in executive session documentation.
  - SW motioned to adopt all minutes with changes as discussed. NB seconded the motion.
- Religious Education Report:
  - Elizabeth Ann Terry, Religious Educator and MS meet weekly. She is very excited about the work, committed to providing a welcoming circle for whoever comes and using activities that thematically match the services. At this time, there are more staff than kids. There had been at least one child each week and 2 new families. She reviewed staffing and clearance requirements specifically for two rooms based on ages.
  - Elizabeth Ann distributed a What Are Your Gifts questionnaire for members to complete to explore ways they can be involved with religious education. BPJ noted that the form will initially service religious education but may also provide gifts to help with other congregational needs.
  - SW thanked Elizabeth Ann for all her energy.
- Minister Report: MS noted we are “doing OK.”
  - We have a continued pastoral load. SD has been a great addition and those at Foulkeways are helping to take care of each other.
  - We are working toward standardizing the worship group and working on integrating themes with RE.
  - MS attended the 30<sup>th</sup> Street Station protest (clarification following the meeting: ceasefire in Gaza) on November 2, noting there will be additional protests.
  - Starting focus on Article II. SD to be the minister next week and there will be a series of services to discuss Article II.
  - BPJ asked regarding a new intern with SD’s internship ending. MS notes the congregation needs to decide if we want to sponsor an intern and if we can afford having an intern. In the UUA Internship Clearinghouse which includes recommended amounts for stipends, we are listed as providing no stipend for an intern. The process can start as early as January.
- Treasurer’s Report:

- NB provided and reviewed the following statements: For the period of July 1 – October 31 all revenues and expenses are running to plan. We are 33% of the way through the fiscal year with collection of 23% of the pledge. This follows our usual curve and typically come the close of Q2 we see a large increase in receipts prior to the close of the calendar year and it puts us ahead of plan. There were no unexpected expenses with the exception of the salary expense for Lena which was agreed upon at the board retreat. To date, the amount would be considered immaterial against the overall budget.
- Building and Grounds Committee:
  - Per SW, nothing official but due to safety concerns regarding Holly Phares parking on the street, a concrete company has been contacted to see if we can create a place for her to park beside the driveway on the side of the church.
- Justice Council & 8th Principle Team: Movie/Panel 11/19
  - BPJ: First film by the Coalition of Natives and Allies is scheduled for 11/19/23 with emphasis on inviting the local neighborhood. Board discussed sending e-mails to the Michener Museum and a museum in Allentown both of which include Native American exhibits.
  - Beloved Conversations Among Opening Retreat was held October 7.
- Folk Factory:
  - BPJ's son Jamie will play this Friday November 10 along with David Roth.
- Finance Committee:
  - NB reported no finance committee meeting since the last board meeting, will be meeting in November. Priority topics will be development of a user friendly audit process and updating the by-laws for audits every 2-3 years. Next project will be the pledge drive.
- Pantry:
  - MS: With Courtney starting a new job, Nicole Williams is taking on more of a management role. Pick ups are running smoothly with lots of donations. There is a new sign up for drivers and a new process for shopping trips: reimbursement up to \$30.00 for shopping trips for needed items.
  - Deb Gausman has suggested options for having a basket in our vestibule for donations.
- Pastoral Care: See Ministers Report: Board discussed recent visits.
- Membership Committee:
  - LS: Committee is planning to meet in January
- Music:
  - AA noted LFS is very involved with music. At a recent retreat on 10/21/23, discussed/agreed on ways to support Holly when she reaches out with needs.
- Building Use:
  - SW: Initially we were told the families would be with us for October and November, just before they came we were told October only, a week later plan was back to October and November. One family was locked out but the situation was resolved quickly. Board discussed ways to support families sharing the kitchen by having designated/labeled bins for storing each families non perishables. SW will pick up bins.

- BPJ reviewed that on October 29<sup>th</sup>, four events happened without issues: Justice Council meeting; Power Whites Confronting on Racism meeting followed by presentation by Lenape Nation of PA, and Jim Walters benefit concert.

## UPDATES/ACTIONS

- Coffee Hour/Hospitality/Usher
  - SD: People can sign up through google docs, can use a computer or can e-mail call her for assist.
  - BPJ: Reminded/encouraged board bring offerings to coffee hour and sign up for ushering.
- Follow Up with matt Arlyck on Power Mapping and Sociocracy simulation
  - Board discussed/agreed to offer Matt Arlyck first Sunday in February (2/4/24) starting at 2:00 or 2:30 for Power Mapping and BPF will conduct the sociocracy simulation
- RE Fundraiser:
  - SW referred to his e-mail regarding the fundraiser. He is suggesting February with a Carnival in Rio (Brazil's version of Mardi Gras) theme He encourages use of offerings such as dinners or events with several Sundays for silent bidding leading up to the event on Saturday 2/10/24.
- Board Covenant
  - BPJ had board review and suggest updates to the covenant. He will incorporate agreed upon changes.
- Long Range Planning
  - BPJ: Initial meetings will include discussions on how to structure long term planning which can be involve a 5-10 year plan. Board considered some members who may be able/interested in facilitating the process.
  - NB: Asked if there are old plans to review. MS located a plan from when Kathy Ellis was the minister.
- Jazz Vespers: Next Steps
  - Jill Salkin is interested but is involved with Dinner for 8 and NB noted she was considering asking her regarding the pledge committee.
- By-Laws (Name, Modified Consensus, Audit Committee)
  - BPJ: Updates include name change, modified consensus, updates to audit committee
  - CM: Noted an opportunity to look at asset development with a mix of experienced and new members
- Status/mission of Aesthetics:
  - Board discussed previous conversations with Building and Grounds. CM suggested this topic can be addressed in Beloved Conversations Among.
  - Board agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

- Harald proposal to move archives
  - Harald Grote has suggested moving archives to the PA Historical Society
  - Board discussed holding off on transfer of archives in case some of the information will help with our review of our history; therefore, for now, CM's action plan will be on hold.
  
- Follow-up with History: Will discuss further at next meeting

#### FUTURE PLANS:

Next Meeting: 12/3/23 Hale Lounge

EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE AND ADJOURNMENT: 2:30

#### TASK LIST:

- ALL: Sign up for coffee hour, usher, hospitality
- NB will complete and distribute a list of members with clearances.
- SW will pick up bins for visiting families to use for storing food.
- BPJ will:
  - Include a note in the newsletter regarding the families staying through November
  - Update covenant.
  - Include a note in the newsletter regarding interest in long range planning
- LS will make correction in Town Hall Meeting minutes, deleting UUA and adding in Meadville.

EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE AND ADJOURNMENT: 2:30

UUs of Mt. Airy calendar:

[https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/embed?src=minister@uumtairy.org&ctz=America/New\\_York](https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/embed?src=minister@uumtairy.org&ctz=America/New_York)

