

## UUCL BoT Minutes – March 21, 2023

Location: online Zoom, 7:00 p.m.

Trustees Present: Fred Foster-Clark, Kim Chappell, Carole Campbell, Alan Jacobs, Steve Jones, Leslie Laird, Darcy Pollock; Jonas Kauffman, Treasurer; Rev. Patricia Guthmann Haresch

Others Present: Robert Close (Operations and Safer Congregation Committee), Kay Welty, Stephanie Santiago, Rev. Elizabeth Shuba, and Randy Newswanger (Committee on Ministry); and Marian Joyce (Safer Congregation Committee); John Snyder (Financial Advisory Committee); David Dussinger

President Fred opened the meeting at 7:01; Alan gave a brief reading, and Leslie lit a chalice. Fred and Carole read the Board Covenant.

After a brief check-in of members, Fred introduced a three-round response to the following three questions about the March 5<sup>th</sup> congregational discussion on safety and security at UUCL.

- How did you *feel* about the safety/security workshop? Responses ranged from appreciation and gratitude that a discussion process had begun, expectation for further progress; positive about the way it was conducted; comforted on one hand and concerned on the other.
- What did you *think* about the workshop? Responses: it was an important first step in decision-making; layers of the complexity of the work were revealed; some security measures/improvements have already begun (e.g., intercom system); the presentation by the Rev. Sunshine Wolfe prior to the meeting had a measure of bias; appreciation for Rev. Sunshine's being in the often-targeted communities most concerned; awareness that some congregants who are strong advocates of having armed security did not feel comfortable speaking in the meeting.
- What are your recommendations for further security discussions/decisions? Responses: There is a feeling among congregants who are also members of a minority community that they have to always be on guard and fight the hardest to remind the white-heterosexual-neurotypical-able-bodied majority of their insecurity; ask Black congregations and representatives of the LGBTQ center for their suggestions; action on safety measures has to be done together, as we consider whether we are who we profess to be; we need to hire a security professional who can help guide us in planning; we take our risk way too seriously and because it's so minimal hiring armed security is not a priority; regret that the Board moved too quickly in past months to immediately jump to the possibility of armed security; we need to back up from the idea of armed security and be the welcoming church we say we are; we need not only to welcome but also embrace; rather than a security professional we need a social worker who will watch the door and support volunteers. Rev. Pat concluded that

we need a plan, not only for Sundays but for the Co-op School as well. She suggested that the UUA has been securing churches for 20 years, and that the Central East Region as well as the national office has written plans.

At 8:22 the meeting moved to consider routine business.

Jonas gave the Treasurer's report for the January financial statements (attached). He commented that the recently-concluded auction should improve the financial receipts considerably. **Darcy moved and Steve seconded that the Treasurer's report be approved. It was passed unanimously.**

John and Jonas presented the current version of the proposed 2023-2024 budget. John noted three things in particular: 1) that the proposal has lowered the expected revenues for the next year because of current-year pledge shortages; 2) personnel costs are responsible for two-thirds of the budget total; and 3) an unknown factor is whether more than the current one staff member will opt for health insurance, which will increase costs. He suggested that Board members read the proposal soon, and send any questions to FAC members. He also urged that the Board and FAC work on a long-range sustainability plan, certainly more than the current twelve-month pattern.

Fred and Darcy aired concerns about the annual stewardship drive. Darcy asked for help on the "creative" side of stewardship. Discussion about a special event (such as a chili cook-off) for a stewardship kickoff ensued. Rev. Pat will be giving her stewardship "Sermon on the Amount" on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Because of the late hour, the remainder of the meeting items will be considered at a special BoT meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Alan moved and Leslie seconded that the consent agenda, consisting of the February 21<sup>st</sup> regular meeting and March 9<sup>th</sup> special meeting minutes be approved. The motion was passed unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Chappell, Secretary

March 2023 Treasurer's Report

Dear UUCL Board of Trustees:

Attached are the February 2023 financial statements which show an operating deficit of \$21.4k for the month and a fiscal year-to-date surplus of \$24.7k. Interestingly, that year-to-date surplus is nearly identical to our February 2022 surplus.

February's Financial Commitments and Other Contributions of Record totaled \$10.2k, which is \$3.3k under budget. Between these two categories of giving, we are \$23.6k behind budget YTD.

February's expenses came in \$4.6k under budget, leaving our year-to-date expenses \$30.9k under budget. The personnel budget contributed \$22.1k of this year-to-date savings. Expenses that continue to run significantly over budget YTD include Yarnell Security Systems (1.6k), Computer IT Support (\$3.1k), Professional Expenses-Staff (\$1.8k), and Professional Expenses-Music Director (\$1.1k).

Our Operating Fund balance stands at \$126k.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jonas Kauffman