

UUCM Board Meeting
Tuesday, August 15, 2017

Attending were President Sue Raufer, Vice President Denise Rodgers, Treasurer Dennis Kurtti, Secretary Sheila Eby and Trustees Peter Arian, Doug Andrews, Brian Crooks, Ellen Fenster-Kuehl, Steve Mintz, Laura Wilson, DREE Chris Buja and Reverends Anya and Scott Sammler- Michael.

Consent Agenda

- Anya and Scott distributed a “Point of Contact” document, identifying which one of them handles what. Congregants can contact either of them relative to any specific issue or project, but this list shows which subjects each of the two ministers is most closely aligned with. The chart will appear in the Gazette, the Order of Service and on the Web site, and will be posted it on Kona.
- Don’t worry about whether you send an email to either Anya or Scott. Address both of them. They may later ask us to address only one of them.
- Call them either Anya or Scott or Rev Anya and Rev Scott. Children should use the title, as they would use the honorifics Mr. and Mrs.
- Chris Buja has been asking strangers he’s met in Montclair if they’d heard of our congregation. Two people knew of diversity of beliefs. He can be called Mr. B.
- Peter moved to approve the consent agenda, Brian seconded and it passed without opposition.

President’s Report

- Denise proposed the board communicate each week in the Order of Service. So when board members sign up for the month, they will do these communications four or five times that month.
- Our retreat will take place the 8th and 9th of September. We will be at Laura Wilson’s house on Friday night. Saturday Erin has arranged for us to have a conference room at Montclair State.
- The following Sunday is UU Ville. The Board should be well represented and needs an activity to perform. Peter says his daughter, Maggie, and Jade Lytle can make buttons for attendees. Denise suggested we also have buttons for board members. Brian will design the buttons.
- “Governance and Ministry” is a book all board members will receive. The author talks about the difference between governance and ministry.
- A Stigma Free Zone proposal addresses families of people with mental illness. We will consider this as a board when the group’s purpose and activities are more clearly defined. We need to determine what qualifies an organization to be named a covenant group. Scott has drafted questions which begin enabling us to do that.

Treasurer’s Report

- There is a difference between what we budgeted and the actual numbers. Chris will join us next month at our board meeting and give us a lot more information.
- What direction should we give John Carlton as he takes on installation responsibilities? What reporting responsibilities does he have vis a vis the budget? Steve will get in touch with John Carlton this week. Scott is working on this; he and Anya have ideas about who will be involved and are ascertaining the availability of those people.
- Dennis pointed out that we need to define the responsibilities of people with budget responsibilities.

- The Stewardship Committee will appoint one of its members to serve as the chair of the Sharing Our Riches Committee, as requested by the board after the July 2017 Board Meeting.
- Jason Fortunis will chair the auction this year.
- Denise suggested putting the reserve fund in context for the congregation, as failing to do so could lead to misunderstandings about the congregation's overall financial health. Dennis pointed out that we weren't planning on publishing these numbers. But Laura said people brought up the Ortman Fund at the Annual Meeting; people may want more transparency. Dennis will deal with this when he does a larger communication for the congregation.
- Dennis will ask the Finance and Stewardship Committees for monthly and quarterly budgets.
- Anya suggested the Finance Committee make the congregation feel the deficit; we could remove activities the congregation would feel. Dennis said the Finance Committee should provide the options for cuts as we adhere to our budget. Anya says we have to provide parameters for the Finance Committee. (Dennis says shortfall is \$7,500.)
- 5 X 5 report – we all must know it well before going to the retreat. Any questions about it, ask Susan.
- Denise moved to accept Dennis's report. Peter seconded the motion, which passed.

Co-Ministers' Report

- We need to raise the big questions that free us from dealing with nit-picky work over and over. What are the big questions we have to ask ourselves, and what are the policies we have to set?
- Scott wants a calendar for the whole congregation. He asked the board to appoint someone to help launch workshops led by the UUA congregation Life staff to introduce Scott and Anya to the congregation more deeply. Peter and Laura will take on that role.
- Scott would like an overview and update on the task forces.

Sue Suggestions

- Installation Committee – please review the information on Kona and contribute your views.

Executive Session

Brian moved to go into executive session, and Ellen seconded the motion, which carried.

Ellen moved to come out of executive session and Doug seconded the motion, which carried.

Tasks

- Executive Committee to approve Scott and Anya's chart outlining their division of responsibilities
- Steve to meet with John Carlton
- Laura and Peter to work on getting Scott and Anya a full introduction to the congregation
- Peter to focus on buttons for UU Ville

Process Observation

Ellen called it a solid, productive session

The meeting adjourned at 9:55.

