

**The UUCM Board Meeting  
Special Budget Meeting  
April 27, 2017**

Attending were President Michael Mernin, Treasurer Dennis Kurtti, Secretary Sheila Eby, and Trustees Doug Andrews, Ellen Fenster-Kuehl, Steven Mintz, Mary Moriarty, Denise Rodger and Senior Minister Justin Osterman.

Mike acknowledged a sufficient quorum to commence the meeting and discuss the accounting methodology for the UU MESH Café funds.

Mary Moriarty moved to go into executive session; Ellen seconded the motion, which was adopted. Dennis later motioned to end executive session, and Ellen seconded the move. We went back in regular session.

At question was how UU MESH Café funds should be represented on the budget, and whether they should be represented at all.

- Denise averred that the emergency food program should get what people donate, period. If the group should ever find itself with no funds, our board has no obligation to step in and cover the program's cost.
- Mike said that money we collect for the UU MESH Café through donations during Sunday services is restricted. He suggested that every month the budget say how much money that collection amounted to. The proposed accounting treatment would not mean the board funds the UU MESH Café for any portion of the \$11K it spends in a year.
- Denise said, we are closely aligned with the UU MESH Café, but separate. The emergency food program has a separate account. We could take it completely out of the budget, and do a report twice a year to the congregation.
- Sheila questioned why we wouldn't publish the money collected from members on Sunday.
- Denise responded, because it's only a portion of the funds produced. It would be better to have a full budget.
- Justin observed that, though we hold no formal liability for the UU MESH Café, it could become problematic. If people who provide substantial funds moved away, there would be an impact. We need greater transparency. How much money is spent here, what's going on at analogous MESH operations in other houses of worship in town, and what's our relationship to the parent organization. We are collecting thousands of dollars not represented on the budget.
- Mike said, in terms of optics, we're going to have an annual meeting in four weeks, than an election of the board. Given the cost and impact of the program, how come the UU MESH Café isn't in the budget?

- Denise pointed out that the board has no authority over the UU MESH Café, and that's why it should not be on our budget. Neither liability insurance or staffing costs involve the board.
- Someone suggested a UU MESH Café report. "We raised \$X through Sunday donations and \$Y through other means. We served XXX meals, etc."

A vote was taken to settle on a preferred accounting methodology. Prevailing by a 4 to 2 vote was a suggestion that the budget state the number collected through Sunday donations, but that that number carry an asterisk. The text beside the asterisk would read: "This figure represents the amount collected through monthly Sunday collections designated for the UU MESH Café. But it is not the total support provided by members of the congregation, nor is it the total expense of UU MESH Cafe."

Addressing another matter, Doug cited Andrea Lerner's recommendation that the two RE roles we are filling have \$250 for professional development, and asked where the money would come from. Justin suggested taking it out of the Board discretionary fund, knowing there's additional money available for leadership retreats.

A motion was made for the board to approve the 20017/18 congregational budget as amended for presentation at the Annual Meeting to the congregation. Denise made the motion, Mary seconded it, and it passed unanimously.

Mike pointed out that an anonymous donation of \$25K was made to pay for facility upgrades. The funds will be used over the summer to effect capital improvements on the building.

Denise asked if the Selection Committee should be involved with the Personnel Committee. Justin said that he had formed search committees for some staff positions; other times he did not. "If we need a new finance person, okay." But if the post involves congregational life, for example, members of the appropriate committee(s) should be involved. So they have ownership." Doug said the Personnel Committee will put all these practices in writing and flesh them out.

Ellen moved to adjourn the meeting and Steve seconded the motion, which passed. We adjourned.