

UUTC Board Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2022@ 5:30pm via ZOOM and In-Person

Present: Glenn Cockerham, Ian Cowie, Michael Griffith, Vicki Held, Gail Meyers, Quim Moya, Kay Webb, Alice Wellborn, Rev. Bob Renjilian, and RK Young.

Welcome, Check-In: The meeting opened with a check-in among those attending and a reading by Ian Cowie.

Approval of the Minutes: The September 22, 2022, meeting minutes were approved via email vote on 09/27/22 and sent to the Administrator for publishing.

Approval of Email Vote: *Kay Webb moved to accept the following email vote for inclusion in the October minutes; the motion was seconded by Glenn Cockerham and approved.*

09/26/22 – Motion to approve the September 22, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes as presented was made by Alice Wellborn and seconded by Glenn Cockerham; motion was approved on 09/27/22.

Standing Updates: The following reports were accepted for the record:

Minister's Report – The report was shared with Board members prior to the meeting and highlighted Rev. Bob's activities since the September Board meeting. ~ He reported meeting with new members of the Council earlier in the day and shared their enthusiasm to begin work; reconstitution of the Council was a stated goal at the July 2022 Board Retreat. Council members are revisiting the 2020-2025 Vision Statement for possible revision. ~ He officiated the wedding of member Carrie Branum to Seth Batchelder on October 22, 2022. ~ He continues his online work with the UUA Board's Religious Education Credentialing Committee and plans to attend an in-person committee retreat in early April 2023. ~ In the area of "Next Normal," with the rise of COVID-19 cases in the county and in the congregation, Rev. Bob will reinforce the message that, while still optional, we encourage the wearing of masks in the building. ~ In Children's Religious Exploration, he reported that classes began meeting in late September, noting that some new children are attending. Classes were not held on October 23, since most of the active families were attending the CRE campout weekend organized by CRE Director, Kevin Lausch. Also, Rev. Bob commended Kevin for his work with the community group "TC Strong," which launched with an event held at UUTC on October 23, 2022. ~ In Adult Religious Exploration, he reported that the Spiritual Explorers sessions are continuing; he attended two sessions led by Carter Heyward on her new book, *The Seven Deadly Sins of White Christian Nationalism; A Call to Action*. He has decided to discontinue the "Soul Matters" theme discussions on Sunday afternoons due to declining interest; however, he will continue to distribute the study packets to those interested and will continue to preach on the monthly themes. Rev. Bob led the College Walk UU's in a discussion of the book, *Breathe: A Letter to My Sons*, by Imani Perry. New plans for Wonderful Wednesday programming are in the works with a transition to a new team (yet un-named). Wonderful Wednesday programs will resume in January. Efforts are underway to restart an in-person UUTC Men's group (the current online group wants to remain online); times being considered are daytime working hours, evening hours, or a weekend group. Finally, Rev. Bob reported that he is in the early stages of setting up a group to study the UUA "Common Read" book, *Mistakes and Miracles*. ~ In pastoral care, he reported being in touch with congregants by phone and in his office and meeting with LHHH via Zoom. ~ In the area of Worship, he met with the Worship Team to continue planning for Holiday services and making slight modifications to the Sunday morning format. He commended Janice Canon and Vanessa

Cowie for their efforts to adapt to the quarantine of our music leaders and to provide appropriate music for guest speaker Rev. Dr. Carter Heyward's Sunday service. ~ In the community, he participated in the local NAACP Religious Leaders Zoom meeting and volunteered time in the WNC UU tent at the Blue Ridge Pride Festival in Asheville.

Treasurer's Report – The October Treasurer's Report from Michael was shared with members prior to the meeting. The report indicated that September pledge revenue was lower than August, other revenue is still low, and September expenses were lower than average, as well. Gail commended Michael for picking up the reins while she was traveling. She reiterated that the budget is very tight this fiscal year and that planned fundraisers need to be successful. She will share a more detailed financial report for September with Board members soon.

Operations Report – RK's October report was shared with Board members prior to the meeting. ~ In the area of staffing, she reported that we are still short-handed for CRE needs and a list of able-bodied adult volunteers from UUTC to call on when needed would be helpful. ~ Updating her administrative goals, RK reported that Trisha will continue to publish the *UUpdate* every Friday, while RK will publish the monthly *WayFinding* through Realm; she reported on progress in streamlining financial procedures; she explained the utilization of BetterWorld.org for the ebike raffle (ending Oct. 29) and for the upcoming Giving Tuesday sponsored projects campaign (beginning Nov. 1). ~ She reported that the rental property, #74 Varsity, has transitioned to a new tenant. ~ RK updated the Board on progress of ongoing grounds projects: CMC Landscaping is scheduled to begin work Nov 1st to clear invasive plant species from the area between the front parking lot and Varsity Street; we are awaiting the delivery of new light poles to complete the installation of new parking lot lights. ~ She shared trends in Space Use revenue and Anonymous Cash revenue. ~ Finally, she provided updates on stewardship events: the October Yard Sale, the HalloweenFest Ebike Raffle, and the future Spring Auction.

Administration Committee Report – No report; the committee did not meet in October.

Finance Committee Report – A combination Treasurer's Report and Finance Committee Report was shared with Board members prior to the meeting. Michael shared the committee's budget concerns and recommendations, which mirror those discussed by the Board. We must continue to encourage giving; we must make the fundraiser events meet their goals; we must watch expenses and revenue carefully and be prepared for a mid-course correction, if necessary.

Personnel Committee – No report; the committee did not meet.

Property Committee – A report from Committee Chair Bruce Kirkman was shared with the Board prior to the meeting. Liaison Quim Moya said that the committee is ready to begin the process of assessing the needs that a future building should provide for a growing UUTC.

Advisory Council – With the appointment of new members to the Council by the Minister and the Board President, *Alice Wellborn moved to accept Roberta Carver, Bruce Kirkman, Michael Solomon, and Susan Zelle as members of the Governance/Ministry Advisory Council (the Council); Gail Meyers seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.*

Old Business:

Ministry/Minister Annual Review Update – Alice reported on the work of the Annual Review Task Force; they will meet on October 28th to finalize their report. The Board President and President-Elect will meet with Rev. Bob on November 1 to review the Task Force report and to prepare an action plan for the upcoming year, based on the results of the review. In mid-November, some members of the Task Force will meet in a special closed session with the Board to share the results of the annual review. Sometime after this meeting, the Task Force will share the evaluation results with the Congregation.

New Business:

Church Insurance Policy – The current UUTC insurance policy will lapse in early January 2023. The Administrator recommended that a task force be appointed to research insurance companies that provide insurance for religious institutions and to determine what coverage is needed. Alice reached out to Member, Dave Roberts, who is willing to serve on this task force.

Gail moved to approve the appointment of Dave Roberts to serve on a Church Insurance Coverage Task Force; Glenn seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Other individuals suggested for appointment to this task force will be contacted. Michael Griffith, Liaison to the Finance Committee, suggested that the Finance Committee would contact area churches to provide the task force with individuals to contact for information about the companies they engage for their church insurance.

General Operating Fund Discussion – This item was placed on the October agenda by request at the September Board Meeting. Because the financial discussions during the presentation of the October Treasurer’s Report responded to the concerns, no further discussion was needed, and no action was taken.

SUULE (Leadership Training) Discussion – Kay shared that UU leadership training has moved from an in-person weekend event to an online nine-month program; a discussion of how and when to involve congregants in leadership training is needed. After some discussion, it was suggested that we contact our regional UUA representatives to see what might be provided on-site at the local level. Ian Cowie volunteered to investigate what the Southern Region UUA could provide and report to the Board at the next regular Board meeting.

Board Calendar Review: November/December– County Parking Lot Request, Snow Removal Agreement, Cancellation Notification Plan, Board Memo to Nominations Committee

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:52.

Next Scheduled Board Meetings:

Closed Board Meeting - November 17, 2022, at 10:00am

Monthly Board Meeting – December 1, 2022, at 5:30pm (moved from Thanksgiving Day)

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Webb,
Secretary