

## **Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes August 23, 2022**

**Location: 2650 North Druid Hills Road**

**Present:** Maureen McAndrews, President, David Yamashita, President-Elect, Dave Sjoquist, Finance Trustee, Beth Martinez, Secretary, Liebs Liebman, Jason Delaney, Allen Lee, Leta Woo, Barbara Begner, Bryce Thomason, Taryn Strauss

**Maureen McAndrews** called the meeting to order at 6:17 pm

**Chalice Lighting/Opening Word:** Barbara Begner.

**Circle of Connection:** Board members shared a “rose and a thorn” in their personal, professional or spiritual life.

**Announcements, new business:** Maureen asked the Board to review the draft Board Covenant. Allen moved to approve the Covenant, Leta seconded and all voted to approve it.

**Thank you messages for the month:** The board would like to thank Ellen Beattie, Karen Martin, John Guyton, Jen Bain, and Jon Johnson for spearheading the Radical Welcome Team.

### **Annual Vision of the Ministry (AVOM) - Taryn**

Focusing on launching the next era of UUCA. Moved into 2650 North Druid Hills, had a successful Open House and First Sunday worship. Average attendance is over 360, parking was full but everyone got a spot, offering was very generous. Pleased with full RE rooms. Word of the year is Beyond, making sure with our language, signage, screen, etc that this is communicated. Themes will be quarterly instead of monthly. Sept. 18th Service we will have a child dedication, Don will be back, choir in the morning, President of UU will be the preacher for the morning service. We will have an Organization/Group fair where committees and groups may recruit and advertise. Oct 1-2 will be a Memorial for Bill Pulgrum, along with dedication of the Pulgrum Gallery and Art Show Opening. We are understaffed and are in need of a volunteer coordinator, Front Desk Volunteer, admin staff for Taryn/Bryce, building attendant(s). There has been a slight uptick in complaints and grievances. There was a short honeymoon phase when moving in.. Previous eras were maybe not as healthy, so some people might feel shut out, confused, Staff need to safeguard time, methods, workflow. When some people give suggestions, they feel they contribute to the life of this congregation. Some people are perennially dissatisfied. If we are truly in the business of changing lives, then we should welcome complaints and understand that we are pushing and challenging our congregants. Hold the complaints with an open hand and not solve everything. Suggestion for a future practice - have a Praise call for staff and volunteers at the end of service so we get in the habit of sharing our gratitude. After service, give guides any

constructive feedback and they will relay to staff members.

**Approval of the Minutes:** Maureen asked for approval of the July minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved. .

**Finance Report: Dave**

Revenues below projected budget numbers, expenditures were slightly below. Shortfall is about \$98,000 less than budgeted. Bar chart of year to year expenditures and revenue was shared.. Liebs suggested changing colors for accessibility. July was better than June, but lower than budgeted. We are still projected to come in under the budgeted deficit.Dave met with Bryce and Carol Ann to review the Project Phoenix budget. We've used up the donations, sale money, and loan from the Endowment Fund. Now we only have future payments from the capital campaign coming in, so we have a construction loan at 3% interest. It is a 35 month loan due in September 2024. At that point in time we will have an estimated \$150,000 and the loan from the Endowment Fund to pay back. The board voted unanimously to approve the July Finance Report.

**Healthy Relations Committee: Beth Martinez**

HRC is interested in sponsoring a congregation-wide book read of the book by Tarasa Cooley and discussed with Taryn. Taryn thinks the book lends itself to more of a workshop type of meeting.

HRC requested more information with regards to the pathway Courage/Social Justice and what that might look like. Taryn suggested getting in touch with Laura Beth and the ARE team.

**Project Phoenix Committee: Bryce Thomason**

The committee is winding down.Punch list items are hard to get done, and is dragging on longer than expected. The committee still meets every week and is trying to hammer out the last details.

**8th Principle Committee: Jason Delaney**

The committee is meeting every week and soon will be moving to every other week meetings. It is an amazing group, and now is producing ideas for announcements in the weekly update, website, emails, and service announcements. The opening event is scheduled for October.

**ARAOMC Committee: Allen Lee, Liebs Lieberman**

The goal is to put a call out to all congregational groups to request a member from each group to actively advocate ARAOMC principles and give updates, feedback, etc to the committee. That group will develop examples of how groups are advancing ARAOMC principals. This list of examples could be sent out in announcements, etc. to normalize these ideas and show how we are living in the work, instead of it being a PDF on a website.

The committee discussed making it explicit in RE, Nom Com, Stewardship.

One idea is having a process observation form for when you're thinking of making a covenant, starting a group, etc. Later down the road, maybe have HRC and Araomc work hand in hand.

Allen and Liebs asked for feedback given from the board.

**Nominating Committee: Leta Woo**

Nomination committee would like to collaborate with ARE and HRC so they can sit in on classes about leadership development.

Do not have a third person for Stewardship.

Every position the Nom Com fills is in the bylaws. Taryn suggested talking to Laura Yamashita as she has reached out to other congregations about leadership development, and getting information from other congregations that are doing the same work.

**Stewardship Committee: Barbara Begner**

The committee is meeting weekly. They have a spreadsheet of past campaigns and are going to call or meet with each person with a suggested ask. Silent phase goes to Sept. 18th, Kick off is 25th, Sept. 26th is caller training.

**Process Observation: Maureen McAndrews**

Did we focus on the ends and not the means? Still working on it, and were most successful when talking about developing leaders, ARAOMC principles in action in the ARAOMC and 8th principle committees along with our discussions of worship and resilience.

**Next Meeting: September 27, 2022**

Chalice Lighter Jason, Dinner Provider Dave  
4th Tuesday of every month

**Closing Words/Extinguishing the Chalice: Liebs**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:30: Maureen**