

## **Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda April 25, 2023**

Location; 2650 North Druid Hills Road

**Present:** President, David Yamashita, President-Elect, Barbara Begner, Dave Sjoquist, Finance Trustee, Beth Martinez, Secretary, Liebs Honeycutt, Leta Woo, Janel Dennard, Terry Carpenter, Bryce Thomason, Rev. Taryn Strauss

**Absent:** Herschel Beazley

David called the meeting to order at 6:15.

### **Chalice Lighting and Opening Words: Leta**

Leta shared "Thoughts and Solitudes", a prayer by Thomas Merton.

### **Circle of Connection:**

David asked everyone to share joys and concerns.

### **Introductions: David**

David asked everyone to introduce themselves starting with their name, what's important to them about UUCA, a fun fact that others might not know, and if there is anything you need to know about the Board and Board Meetings.

### **Presentation to the Board: Ending Mass Incarceration /Promise the Children - Joy Borra**

Sixty years ago, Coretta Scott King wrote a letter to thank UUCA for helping to fight for Civil Rights.

35 years ago, the congregation voted to begin an All-Congregation project, Hope Elementary. The committee invented special ways to invite all congregants to participate in this project. This was important because we by ourselves couldn't meet all the needs, so we partnered with other congregations in the area. We all provided volunteers and materials to help. Friendships and partnerships were formed. This all congregation project grew our outreach and friendships.

25 years ago, UUCA was invited to be on the organizing committee for a new organization; the Interfaith Children's Movement. This built strong relationships as an interfaith partner with many other faith movements.

Joy proposes that now that we are in our new spiritual home, and Covid has lowered, let's step out in the world and help.

The idea of working on Ending Mass Incarceration started in January when four UUCA members attended a National Convention on Ending Mass Incarceration, sponsored by Ebenezer Baptist Church, The Temple and St. Luke's Episcopal Church where 300 people showed up. Joy states that hearts were touched by the many speakers' experiences with injustice. Can UUCA help change laws and change lives?

So far, Joy and several others have:

1. Hosted city-wide day long training on Ending Mass Incarceration at UUCA. 50 people attended.
2. Built an email list of up to 15 UUCA congregants that are interested in working on this social justice issue.
3. Four congregations want to join us: Congregation Bet Haverim, Atlanta Friends Meeting, Spiritual Living Center of Atlanta, and Abundant LUUV.
4. On May 20, the Adult Religious Education committee approved a three week series in November on Ending Mass Incarceration.

Joy also asked the board to consider becoming an official partner of the Interfaith Children's Movement. She has a letter from the ICM proposing this idea.

**Action Item:** Board members are asked to read and learn, be ready to discuss at the next Board of Trustees meeting.

### **Announcements, New Business:**

- A. Appointment of Board Secretary - Leta volunteered, Liebs made the motion to approve Leta as secretary, seconded by David and was unanimously approved.
- B. Appointment of Process Observer for the May Meeting - Liebs volunteered. There was discussion if this should be a year long appointment or should the Board get a new volunteer for each meeting.
- C. Discussion of Healthy Relations Committee purpose
- D. David discussed details for the Board Retreat at the Mountain Retreat and Learning Center Highlands, NC from June 9 –11.
  1. Negotiated Weekend Pricing for the Mountain including meals and bonfire. Private Room: \$350 /Double Occupancy: \$230, Check-In: Starts 4:00 pm. Bryce will use Realm for Board members to register and pay for this retreat. Registration must be completed by Friday, May 26th.
  2. Guest Presenters will be Karin Lin and Nancy Palmer Jones who wrote the UU common read and the UUCA book group study of Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism.

E. 8<sup>th</sup> Principle Committee – The Board officially closed this committee. The addition of the 8th principle passed Sunday, May 21st at the UUCA Congregational Meeting. Two Board members have spoken to several congregants that are concerned about adding the 8th Principle: 25 voted no at the Congregational Meeting. The Board agreed that dissent is normal and as a congregation we can handle it. It is worth celebrating that no one was personally attacked and we could debate an issue in a healthy way.

#### F. Minister Contract for 2023-2024

David made a motion to start a committee of the board to call the senior minister, and close the Task Force to Explore calling the Senior Minister. Liebs seconded, unanimous vote. David will notify the task group that their work is done.

The board suggests asking Jim Kelly and Mary Crawley to join this committee.

David is working on a multiyear contract in the meantime, and working on clarifying details.

G. The Board agreed that the primary source of communication will be email, and text for items needing a quick response.

#### **Old Business:**

- A. Educating the Congregation about Article II. David, Andrea Barra and Jay Kiskel are hosting a workshop on June 3, 2023 from 9:00-11:00.

#### **Thank you messages for the Month: Maureen/Board**

The Board would like to thank the 8th Principal Committee: Laura Yamashita, Jason Delaney, Allegra Knight-Byrnes, Christian Harden, and John Merkel. The board would also like to thank the Spiritual Living Center for donating an amazing catered dinner for this Board meeting,

Class Facilitators for the Coming of Age program: Mark Honeycutt, Andrea Clay, Ru-Lee Weller-Passman, and Kate Sweeney.

Michael Dangerfield for help with Audio Visual projects.

#### **Annual Vision of the Ministry Update: Rev. Taryn Strauss**

Rev. Taryn reviewed for new Board members what the AVOM is and the process from conception to implementation.

The Board focuses on ends, which are mission driven, mountain top, forward thinking goals and ideas. The Executive (Rev. Taryn) uses means to reach the ends.

At the Board retreat, Rev. Taryn will propose AVOM goals with input from staff and the Board. The Board will help finalize the three main goals for the year at that time.

Rev. Taryn shared a report showing stresses showing up at other large congregations such as lower attendance or participation, but Taryn is proud and excited to be working with this congregation which is growing and constantly working towards our vision and mission.

#### **Approval of the Minutes - Beth**

Beth made a motion to approve last month's minutes, and Leta seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Finance Report - Dave**

We had a deficit of \$16,173 in April, which is \$2,224 less than what we expected. The surplus for the year is \$29,313 larger than expected. It was a good month and a good year so far. However, 2023 pledge payments are at 95.5 percent of expected pledge payments. Also, meeting the fundraising goal will be a challenge and thus a concern. 75% of revenue is pledges, the rest is more variable. Dave proposed that a summary of the financial reports be put in the Weekly Update. The board approved this idea and suggested a summary every quarter.

### **Discussion of Committee Liaisons for the 2023-24 Board:**

Stewardship Committee: Janel Dennard

Healthy Relations Committee: Beth Martinez

Nominating Committee: Barbara Begner

AAROMC Committee - Terry Carpenter

Endowment Fund Committee - Dave Sjoquist

Fundraising (Funraising) Committee - Liebs Honeycutt, Herschel Beazley

Calling the Senior Minister Committee - Leta Woo

The Board needs a member for the Bylaw Committee. The Project Phoenix Committee has closed.

### **Process Observation - Liebs**

Liebs noted that we followed our covenant and there were no breaches. The ends we focused on were #3: Advance justice, wholeness, and equity for people, our Earth, and all life on it, and #4: Advance the goals of our Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression, Multiculturalism resolution through the discussion of an all congregation project, communicating about the 8th principle, moving forward with dissenting opinions, new Board liaison to the AAROMC committee, our comfort level when we bring things up that are feeding into racial issues facing congregations.

For the most part the Board stayed out of the means and focused on the ends by discussing policy and procedures.

### **Closing Words/Extinguishing the Chalice - Leta**

Leta shared "From Blossoms" by Li-Young Lee.

### **Next Meeting: June 27, 2023**

Chalice Lighter: Liebs

Dinner Provider: Barbara