

## Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes September 26, 2023

Primary Location: 2650 North Druid Hills Road, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Library 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm

OR

Secondary Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88223632519?pwd=RFdrR0dpR2dEd2ZLNjITakorTzVLQT09>

Meeting ID: 882 2363 2519

Passcode: 851147

Invitees: David Yamashita - President, Barbara Begner - President-Elect, Dave Sjoquist - Finance and Endowment, Beth Carpenter - HRC, Mary Liebs Honeycutt - Fundraising, Leta Woo - Minister Call, Herschel Beazley - TBD, Janel Dennard - Stewardship , Terry Carpenter - ARAOMC, Bryce Thomason - Director, Rev. Taryn Strauss - Senior Minister

Absent: We're all here! Yay!

Notes taken by: Leta Woo

David called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM

Janel light the chalice and lead opening with Finding what you didn't lose book...When someone deeply listens to you by John Fox

### **Circle of Connection:**

Joys and concerns

### **Announcements/New Business**

Process Observer is Liebs. Yay!

### **Financial Outlook**

- Monthly Results
  - Revenues are below where projected
  - Cash flow issues because we're running deficits
  - Today is when we needed to borrow from emergency reserve to complete payroll
  - Exploring possibility for line of credit, waiting to hear from them
  - We are expecting a tax credit of \$145k, but it's being delayed until 2024 February/March
  - We may need to carry credit into next year; interest rates are high
  - \$40k in money market set aside over a year ago to make interest payments, which don't start until next year; we could tap that money
  - Do we borrow money to carry through, or do we make allocation of free money in our money market account
  - Leta and Dave will approach Endowment Fund about a loan
- Discussion
  - Flawed assumptions in budget last year; historically we run 95% pledge, not a great assumption; fundraising was proposed but we didn't plan so it didn't happen, going into budget, if we do have a fundraising line item, we need to identify events and break that

down, if we're going to have another fundraising dinner, how many will we have in 2024; unfortunately, due to zoning laws in Dekalb, we were not able to meet our goals for rentals; be more detailed about things going forward into 2024 budget; need to be clearer about our budget

- Pledges - even at 95%, will new members make up the difference?
- We should be ok on the next payroll, there will be choices for how we want to handle that
- Actions

Dave - Move to adopt finance report

Liebs - Second

All vote

#### Fundraising

The Odyssey - possibly Nov 18, Barbara spoke to Rhett and MaryAnn/Godfrey, Beth and Kay Johnson will help, get committee together to do that; decide about spaghetti dinner and how we want to do that; sit down dinner with decorations, elders share their life Odyssey; Taryn would like to talk to them; table with objects/mementos; slides with images behind you; you have a theme, certain number of minutes, need to figure that all out; most odyssey are only one person; invite people from your whole community and the congregation; it's \$100 or something; merged with another experience, where fundraising kickoff was made and served by youth group; dress up and decorate; training to wait tables; can't serve wine, but can be served by someone else; play music from life, chooses playlists; Laura will help

Janel - Barbie fundraiser, \$300 appearance fee; suggested \$20 fee per person?

Liebs will try to get meeting together with everyone; may include David and Susan Pins/Allan Stevenson

Executive Report - Faucet of programming and ministry flowing openly, everyone wants top billing; everyone wants their thing to be the main thing; that is just not possible; talked to small staff, when you do good work, you'll get more work; can't be good if it's available to everyone at all times

DFO report - HVAC issues being addressed; security training; 6 month process for zoning issues, likely school wouldn't start until August 2024

DLRE report - Strong ministries around worship; the Village is great, Sunday morning at 10am feels full; small group and wellspring for deepening leadership; Courtney Brooks (Gallery Coordinator) doing great work, possible engagement with Carlton Mackey, Assistant Director, Community Dialogue and Engagement at High Museum of Art for a gallery visit in hopes of moderating the artist talk on Oct.22nd.

Communications - Lift up Shay teaching ARE class to deepen work around communication

Don has had 9 applicants for accompanist just for the rest of the year; plan to bring someone in January 2024

Questions about more casual choir from congregants; encourage them to ask Don directly

Don has established band playing every 6 weeks; wants to make sure there's a music program here, not necessarily for performing on Sunday

For congregational social justice issue, studying and redoing covenant; that's the purview of the board; decide that's the priority and say no to the other things

Stewardship - Janel

Launched on 17th; 14 pledges that day! Now have 35 pledges; \$155k right now; Elizabeth just conducted three training sessions for people to make visits; so excited to invite Board to make visits; please review materials printed (or in google drive); go into google drive to make note about the results of your visit

Please make visits in the next month if possible

Ideally have coffee or meet up; call option for those who are really busy

Use the visits as an opportunity to get to know people and talk about what UUCA means to you

If you aren't able to make these visits, let Janel know; if you will make the visits, please start soon

Emphasize sustainer, and ask if they are interested in making visits; everyone who does visits gets trained

Zoom training tomorrow with Elizabeth about visiting

Nominating Committee - Barbara

One person came to Sunday meeting; curious from announcement; Nom Com planning to do a table before and after service coming up

ARAOMC - Terry

Still waiting for names for bloggers; David will send names again; announcement of committee being formed, waiting for Shay to find a way to do that; website with blogs and educational information

HRC - Beth

No update; want to present at next board meeting, invite HRC members to present

Move to approve minutes - Dave

Second - Barbara

Yays with one abstention

Thank you - Pat Harris and Todd Wingfield (David will do both)

Laura Beth had death in family; her brother

Condolence card from board (Janel)

Article II - Dave

Arranged for Jason Delaney to do a session after first of year to explain what Article II is and what the proposed changes are; piece on website that does it really well; maybe here's why I support and here's why I don't support; not a debate; questions afterwards; what do we tell people to do? they can go to General Assembly; we need to be careful about how we select delegates; we'll have two education

sessions, we have fulfilled our duty; we don't need to be prepared to share with people what they can do next; not enough healthy dissent; the issue is at the UUA

Ministry committee - Leta  
Need help with direction of committee

Process observation - Liebs  
Did we observe covenant? Yes,  
Did we remain on task? Yes, didn't get through everything, we had a packed schedule  
How agenda demonstrate ARAOMC? Leta talking to board before about ways to be more inclusive; Rev. Strauss talking about concerns around how we handle hiring a 2nd minister and honoring our values  
High energy moment? stewardship folders! Yay!  
Low energy moment? conversation about revenue issues  
Most meaningful part of meeting? plans for addressing cash flow and revenue issues

Closing - Janel  
Jericho Brown - duplex poems -

Next meeting: Leta - chalice lighter  
Beth - dinner

### **Old Business from the Previous Board Meeting**

Rev It Up Matching Campaign - Status

Ending Mass Incarceration - Status

Article II - January Approach

Our Vision: Inspired by our faith community, we affirm these values:

- Wonder and awe
- Love and compassion
- Courageous engagement

Our Mission: Transforming lives through courageous action and soulful connection

Our 2023 - 2024 Board Goals:

1. Work to increase revenue sufficiently to support the operations of the congregation
2. Support the radical welcome and belonging teams to grow the congregation
3. Support Social Justice with one all congregation initiative
4. Support updating the UUCA Covenant of Healthy Relationships



Approval of the Minutes	Leta
Executive Report	Rev. Taryn
Stewardship Committee	Janel
Healthy Relations Committee	Beth C.
Nominating Committee	Barbara
ARAOMC Committee	Terry
Endowment Committee	Dave S.
Minister Call Committee	Leta
By Laws	David Y.

### III. Closing

Process Observation		
Next Meeting: Scheduled for October 24, 2023		
Chalice Lighter: Dinner provider:		
Closing Words/Extinguishing the Chalice	Janel	8:30