

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes February 27, 2024

Primary Location: 2650 North Druid Hills Road, 2nd 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

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
5. Call the Senior Minister
6. Leadership Development
7. Start building the Connected Community

Call to order 6:24pm

Dave Sjoquist - Patience and Silence

David move to approve minutes

All approved except one

One abstention

Rev. Taryn executive report

Annual vision of ministry 2023/2024 -

Celebrate, train and develop emerging and existing soulful leadership as a core value of expressing and growing our UU faith - really happening, currently 76 registrants for SOUUL! Probably more than 8 different congregations; UU southern region is offering mostly online events, we are offering an

in-person; leading through culture change, anxiety, and conflict; get inspired with worship, excellent programming; speakers from other congregations; feel really proud and it's a way for UUCA to be a leader; this is a huge undertaking for our staff and volunteers; it's exciting and we're glad so many people are coming

Rev. Strauss was at a conference recently, 28 ministers, there are 33 large congregations right now; group is going through a culture shift, mostly women and a lot of people of color; led a covenanting conversation; notice that we are invited by minister at first UU Dallas to visit, he's been there for 25 years; they do a lot of entrepreneurial things; work to accompany 12 women every week to go to Albuquerque for abortions; started a pregnancy center, really inspired ideas in a deep red state, want to learn more; they are the largest UU congregation right now

Terrible car accident on Oak Grove Rd; in touch with Sonya Tinsley-Hook to help support Lakeside High School; maybe host interfaith service for seniors this year

Grief group sought after; lasts 6-8 weeks and then we launch another one

Pathfinders launched, getting 10-15 folks each week; bringing back something that happens every week to help introduce newer members

Spirituality and aging group being pushed back to probably April

We are completing the "Imperfect Harmony" worship series and preparing for the "Souls Ablaze" worship series through end of March on Easter

Art shows are great, but not selling very well; maybe a think tank for how to help with that?

Talking about music, breath, imagination; 'air' sign; we got press about our "Taylor Swift" service; this Sunday we have UU service committee (Rev. Mary Katherine Morn); we'll be sharing our plate with them

3/10 is music Sunday; love letter to UUCA; hoping for a big plate to support

3/17 SOUUL Sunday - Holy Spirit activate meme

3/24 The Tarot

3/31 Easter

This Sunday is first time for two services; staff is willing, it's a big push and a lot of anxiety; there's a lot going on

Read report for more information on religious education; Article II series begins on March 10

25 people registered so far for congregational retreat

Met goal for SOUUL summit participation 75-100

Jon Reese provided presentation on UUCA Congregational Retreat update on Zoom

April 26-28, 2024; Calvin Center, Hampton, GA

39 rooms, spacious cafeteria-style dining room, flat paths, recreational options like canoeing, archery, basketball, field activities; 38 miles from UUCA for commuter option

Reduced cost from previous year

Hoorays - social justice coordinating team serving as retreat planning team; user-friendly Realm based registration, (re)centers social justice at church's core; commuting and carpooling for greater inclusivity; continuation opportunity with Sunday's 11AM worship service; Saturday passover seder connects L'chaim's tradition and retreat theme; tai chi, line dancing, singalongs, drumming, games, small group showcase

Asking for support from board - register to attend, promote the retreat as can't miss; point out benefits of this year's retreat location, encourage new members and families with kids to register, encourage taking advantage of lower early bird prices before March 17

Moving next month's meeting March 19

Liebs will do dinner next time

Barbara can do opening/closing words

Maureen presented on Zoom - need board help for planned auction fundraiser; Rob Mitchell and Maureen are listed as co-chairs, Carol Ann Arvan also involved; meeting weekly, first tried online bidding company, but it didn't work; picked another company, same company used by choir before; bidding for good, had to give them \$1150, take 6% of sales; they are providing much more in terms of service, the other company is relatively new and you can't talk to anybody there; expecting to let people register to bid the week of March 10, right now have three categories, early bird is \$10 until week before auction maybe?, then it goes to \$15; childcare registration at no cost; April 20, starts at 7pm; all the bidding is done online; open bidding the week before online; if someone outbids, they'll get a text, that's the same thing that happens during the on-site auction; check in snacks; asking board to help with people bidding; goal to raise \$20k; Maureen managing data entry for donations, making spreadsheet of all the items, estimated market value of \$9500; haven't done any calling yet; Carol Ann handling procurement and getting donations; asked David to call people; from previous data from last auction; everyone who donated at that time; will contact all of those people for donations; UUCA members and friends; neighborhood businesses; cultural and sporting events; teens and kids; need more people to make calls

Dave Sjoquist

Planning for three Article II ARE classes that will occur in three weeks in a row; March 10, March 17, and March 24

General Assembly (GA) delegates - GA is virtual, article II will come up; we'll probably have 12 delegates; board will likely pick those people; we could run out of slots; process to select people? Dave had drafted

a policy and reviewed with group; there's also an existing policy here:

<https://www.uuca.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/UUCA-Policy-and-Procedure-for-General-Assembly-Delegate.pdf>

We should set a start and end date for applying to be a delegate; April 1 through end of April 30

*Action item for David to make sure Shay gets this in the weekly update

Dave Sjoquist - Finance

It was a good month. Pledges are doing well. We're under on our fundraising so far. We're a little over on our expected rental income.

Liebs moves to approve the finance report as presented

All in favor

Bryce - sustainers are a lot higher compliance compared to regular; only 26 pledges that we would have expected to make a payment who haven't made a payment yet; average pledge for sustainer is higher

Janel - no update

Leta - virtual all-congregation information meeting happened with good attendance (26), Zoom recording will be in weekly update, asking for volunteers from board to help with facilitating and note taking

Barbara - still trying to fill a few board positions and nom com and two stewardship; hoping with SOUUL summit will be more people

HRC, Beth - Should we review the safe congregation policy that was presented in October? Beth will send out this week for everyone to read again; after two weeks ask all of us to vote through email. We can either pass current version and then talk about changes or make changes before we pass. We are continuing on the reimagining the covenant journey; sending out other congregations covenants to raise awareness of project, survey; encourage board members to look at it; holding some meetings to get feedback on what people want to see in next covenant

ARAOMC, Terry - SOUUL conference will have good sessions to address issues; record number of books being checked out of lending library; continuing to expand that library; wanting it to be a part of everything we do; survey that we sent out; evaluate how we did after article II passes; previous survey tried to assess ARAOMC

Encourage everyone to read ARAOMC

Meet again March 19

Liebs will make dinner
 Barbara will do reading
 Terry will do process observer

Thank yous - Jill Pohl (David)
 Kris Casariego and Cheryl Debossé (David)
 email to thank everyone who made soup (Leta will put together)

I. Spirit and Community

Agenda Topic	Lead Speaker	Start Time
Dinner	Leta	6:00
Chalice Lighting/Opening Words	Dave S.	6:15
Circle of Connection: Joys and Concerns	Leta - Start	6:20
Approval of the Minutes	Leta	6:30
Executive Report	Rev. Taryn	6:35
Guest Speaker Congregational Retreat Status	Jon Reece	7:00
Guest Speaker Auction Status and Board Ask	Maureen McAndrews	7:15
Article II Discussion	Dave S.	7:25
GA Delegate Discussion	David S.	7:35

II. The Work of the Board

Executive Session	Rev. Taryn	7:50
Finance	Dave	8:10
Stewardship Committee	Janel	8:20
Call Process Task Committee	Leta	8:30
Nominating Committee	Barbara	8:40
HRC Committee	Beth	8:45
ARAOMAC Committee	Terry	8:55

III. Closing

Process Observer for the March Meeting Next Meeting: Scheduled for March 2023 Need to reschedule the March Board meeting Chalice Lighter: Dinner provider:		8:55
Closing Words/Extinguishing the Chalice	Dave S.	9:00