

Sierra Foothills Unitarian Universalists
Board of Trustees
November 18, 2020

Meeting Minutes

Those in attendance: Maureen Bauman (President), Marsha von Dessoneck (Vice President), Geoff Smith (Financial Officer), Rick Marshall (Secretary), Suzanne Borth, John Bohland, Rick Ross, AJ van Tine (ex-officio), Gary Koerner (Treasurer, ex-officio)

Maureen provided a reading for the lighting of the chalice. All those present checked in.

1. Finance

Gary provided an overview of the financial reports for October. Highlights:

- Investment income from the endowment fund is down slightly
- Since new recipients have been designated, all prior “Share-the-Plate” donations have been paid out
- The recent auction net proceeds are around \$5,500, final figures are still coming in
- Some folks paid their pledges early which helped the revenue side
- The bank says the paperwork for the PPP loan forgiveness will come in mid-December, and will be “streamlined” (this represents ~\$27,500)

The Board discussed how frequently to have the Treasurer attend the Board meeting and present a report. It was felt that especially during the first half of the fiscal year, less-frequent reports would suffice. The reports would still be transmitted to the Board for their review, but the Treasurer would attend and report only in August, November and February. During the second half of the fiscal year, monthly reports on the finances and the development of the budget would continue to occur. It was noted that for the Treasurer to report in August, the Board will need to schedule its annual retreat in July, as the Treasurer does not attend that gathering.

The new approach for frequency of in-person Treasurer reports was agreed to by consensus.

2. Share-the-Plate

The Board discussed the status of the Share-the-Plate program, which has seen declining receipts recently. There were two main areas of discussion: (1) changing the logistics of the collection (timing, technology, etc.); and (2) changing the distribution of the proceeds. There is no consideration of changing other aspects, such as the process for choosing which organizations are selected to be recipients.

The discussion is summarized as follows:

- (1) Logistics of the program
 - Possibly change to collecting only once per month, with more promotion
 - The recent presentation by new recipient organization Sierra Streams was effective – contributions that Sunday were twice the amount from the entire previous month
 - Longer ago, we did a separate collection for the Auburn Interfaith Food Closet – this \$ went entirely to them, was not divided

- New congregational management software “Breeze” has a possible “text to donate” option
- We could add the “text to donate” info to the slide displayed during the offertory
- It would be good to collect for this program some other time than during the worship service, so people don’t have to leave the service to go to another screen to make a contribution
- Possibilities discussed were including the info in the end-of-service slides, the e-Beacon and the newsletter

(2) Distribution of the proceeds

- Consider giving 100% of the receipts, rather than the current 50%
- This change might be temporary, just for the duration of virtual church
- If we don’t divide the proceeds, does it need to go through SFUU or could donations go directly to the organization? It is good to keep track, to build “ownership” of the program within our members
- The 50/50 split makes more sense when we are gathered in person, less sense when collected with a “drop-down” selection on the web page
- We should consider calling the program something different if we don’t divide the proceeds

Following discussion, there was consensus to move forward with changes in area (1) above only at this time. The program will be monitored, and changes discussed in area (2) can be implemented in the future depending on how it goes. Summary of changes approved:

- Focused attention to recipient organization once/month
- Other Sundays will continue to mention who the month’s recipient organization is
- Links to donate will be included in e-Beacon, newsletter, offertory slide and postlude slides
- The Board will check the status of the program at its February meeting

AJ WILL GET THE INFORMATION TO VICKY JUNGERS AND THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE TO IMPLEMENT THIS DIRECTION.

3. Minutes

The Board reviewed the draft Minutes from the October 21 meeting.

Marsha moved, Rick R seconded, to approve the October 21 Minutes as presented. Passed unanimously.

4. Next Meeting

Board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month, at 6:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be Wednesday, December 16 at 6:00 p.m. Rick R will provide opening words.

5. Thank You Notes

The Board decided to send Thank You Notes to all who contributed to the success of the recent Auction. Rick M agreed to determine the assignments, which are as follows:

Person to thank	Board member to send card
Marsha von Dessoneck, Joan Lacktis	Maureen Bauman
Stevie Rea, Jeanine Meunier	Marsha von Dessoneck
Vicky Jungers, Mary Piette	Geoff Smith
Cindy Stubblebine, Kia Hatch	Suzanne Borth
Florence family, Bill Boyce	Rick Ross
Ian Duncan, Jeff Chamberlain	John Bohland

The notes should be prepared “on behalf of the Board” but with the individual member’s signature. Suggested comments to include are to thank them for their work helping to “grow our community” and/or “serve our mission.”

BOARD MEMBERS WILL SEND THANK YOU NOTES AS NOTED ABOVE.

6. Committee Liaison Reports’

Buildings and Grounds (Marsha) – gutters are to be repaired, cost is about \$700, which is within the budget for this area.

Stewardship (Marsha) – primary report is the Auction, which was discussed above. The committee will need to figure out how to approach the pledge campaign for next year.

Committee Council – next meeting will be February 3. They will discuss the proposed template for “Committee Charters” which is designed to replace the current “Policies and Procedures” approach.

Finance (Geoff) – discussed above.

Worship (Geoff) – Worship Circles are starting soon.

Adult RE (Suzanne) – we are in the final week of the Covenant Groups, which have gone well. The leaders have determined some lessons learned, which will assist with the next round, being planned for the Spring. Additionally, 3 of the 4 planned sessions of the antiracism book study have taken place and are going great.

Denominational Affairs (Suzanne) – things are in a bit of a holding pattern, trying to figure out the approach to upcoming District and Regional gatherings. It has been determined that General Assembly will need to be “virtual” again. There is new national programming for youth which is coming out soon.

Membership (Rick M) – there have been no new visitors recently, a “dry spell.” UU 101 will be offered in the Spring in coordination with the Adult RE program. Attendance is down slightly but holding steady. Membership Committee will be coordinating with other committees on outreach efforts.

Social Justice (Rick R) – no report.

Children/Youth RE (Rick R) – no report.

Caring Committee (John) – no report.

Communications (Maureen) – there is recent work updating the website.

7. Commission on Institutional Change report

The Board continued its review of the report, “Widening the Circle of Concern,” specifically the section on Hospitality and Inclusion. Discussion points included:

- Interruptors – practice what you will say when you hear something; use your agency to assist someone in need
- Microaggression – the word itself is troublesome (per the current book study “How to be an Antiracist” by Ibram X. Kendi); the author uses instead the term “racist abuse”
- Focus on the impact on the recipient, not the intent of the speaker
- Code-switching as a recommended practice for POC to function in oppressive environments while maintaining a sense of self-worth
- Convening youth in larger cluster gatherings
- Population in poverty is someone we could engage in our area
- Humans evolved to be tribal; we have a poor ability to engage and be respectful
- The various recommendations for training opportunities are hoped for
- We need a common approach to such training, and a common language; need UUA to organize and prioritize this
- Various groups cited (i.e., DRUUM, BLUU, TRUUsT, EqUUal Access) – would be good to increase our awareness of these
- Proud of how our congregation welcomed a Black person as a new member
- With the demographics of our area, there are not many POC; we’re not doing so bad
- Young people – we need to get our youth connected

8. Feedback on CYRE programming

AJ IS WORKING WITH ADREAN ON THIS.

THE BOARD WILL DISCUSS THIS FURTHER AT ITS NEXT MEETING.

9. Minister’s Report

There was discussion about a recent connection between Placer People of Faith Together (PPOFT) and the Auburn Police Chief. This is hoped to be a continuing developing relationship. Other potential allies to build coalitions with include Native American groups and Hispanic groups. Maureen has contacts with these group, and AJ will follow up with her in the future.

The Board reviewed Right Relations for this meeting, and extinguished the chalice.

MINUTES PREPARED BY RICK MARSHALL, SECRETARY