

Minutes from UUCG Board Meeting
September 17, 2019

Present were: Greg Bandy, Jezza Hehn, Ally Perras, Lorena Griffin, Marcus Kabel, Daniel Bailey, Rev. Jan Taddeo, Noël Lemen (Student Minister). RJ Rice and Terry Welsher attended via Zoom. Lorena Griffin served as Secretary for the purpose of this meeting.

The group had a chalice lighting/opening words, did check-in, and read the UUCG Leadership Covenant. Minutes from the August meeting were approved unanimously.

BOARD DISCUSSION

Rev. Taddeo distributed **notes from the Board Retreat**, summarizing our three open questions and Policy-Based Governance. She described a new **format for the Board agenda**: There will be a consent agenda, simple items requiring board approval (such as approving minutes and approving a date for an event). These items will be approved in entirety, as a group. If anything requires further discussion, it will be moved from the consent agenda to the discussion agenda. After approval of the consent agenda, the Board will move on to the discussion agenda. This part of the meeting will include discussion and action items. Marcus will pull a board packet together each month (ideally two weeks prior to the next meeting) and send out all items as a unit.

There was a brief discussion of **spraying for mosquitoes**. Concern was expressed about the spray being harmful to bees. The Green Team (2 members of which serve on the Board) agreed to research and discuss this issue and come up with a proposal for future spraying.

BOARD BUSINESS

Minister's Report

The Board discussed pros and cons of **acting as a Fiscal Sponsor** for Debra Greenwood's non-profit project to help fund a clinic in Sierra Leone. Rev. Jan has applied for services from a pro bono legal organization. It was decided to report to Debra that we are in the process of getting legal counsel. We don't know if this will fit her timeline, but the Board felt it was prudent to do so.

Rev. Jan discussed the **congregation's current financial position**. She provided a financial summary in her Minister's Report and a detailed report to the Treasurers. She was asked to send this detailed report to the full board. She felt our position was "amber," not green or red. She will hold a congregational workshop on the congregation's finances, after service on September 22.

The Board discussed the option of a **partial buy-out of the cell phone tower lease**. This would provide funds to repay the loan from the UUCG Endowment and to complete the sewer project. Additional funds could be put into a fund as seed money for a capital campaign. There would be an absolute requirement that these funds not be used for the operating budget. The board was in favor of this option. It will be presented to attendees at the financial workshop on Sept. 22. There is one new wrinkle in the sewer easement process. Park 156/Pequot II has asked that the congregation pay \$2500 to cover legal fees of

one loan holder in their property. There is a second loan holder and a possibility of a second similar request. Rev. Jan has an appointment with the Georgia Department of Environmental Health this week to plead for a waiver that would allow the congregation to install a new, larger septic tank, rather than connect to the sewer.

There was discussion about **gender neutral restrooms**. There have been some in the congregation who have expressed their opinions against moving in this direction until funds were available to retrofit bathrooms for more privacy (i.e. full-length stall dividers). There have been others in the congregation who feel this move is past due. The Board decided to begin congregational discussions about the three annual questions, the first of which will be **“How can we move more fully into becoming a welcoming congregation?”** For three weeks, board members will meet to discuss this question at the table in the back after service. The schedule is as follows: Jezza, RJ, and Ally (Sept 22); Jezza and Ally (Sept 29); Lorena and Terry (Oct 6).

A **money-count schedule** was set for October: Daniel and Lorena (Sept 29); RJ and Marcus (Oct 6); Terry and Lorena (Oct. 13); Ally and Jezza? (Oct. 20); Daniel and ? (Oct. 27)

Daniel Bailey resigned from the Board, effective December 1, due to family/caretaking issues.

The **next Board Meeting** will be held on October 16.

SHARED MINISTRY UPDATE

Staff will be given the day off to attend the **Climate Strike** on Friday, September 19.

RE is in full swing. Noël led the family/all ages session on Miracles and it was well-received.

Young Adult Game Night (Dungeons and Dragons) will meet on first and third Friday, targeted toward (but not limited to) young adults.

Family Game Night will be held on the fourth Friday of the month.

The **Open House** will be from 2:00-5:00 on Saturday, October 12. Board members should try to attend.

The **2020 Pledge Drive** will begin in October. It will be held in a very low-key manner and will emphasize responsibility.

--- submitted by Lorena Griffin