

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Chico Board Meeting

April 17, 2025

Attendance: Board: Angela Ridsen (President) , Bob Caldwell, Bob Crowe, Dave Keller, Merrily Stover; Lucy Sperlin, Past President.
Minister: Stacy Craig (via Zoom)
Absent: Asya Lesly
Guest: Marvey Mueller

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 by President Angela Ridsen. Everyone was invited to provide a brief check-in. Angela gave the opening words. It was determined that a process observer was no longer needed. Angela announced that Marvey Mueller and possibly Sue Jordan would be joining us.

Bob Crowe moved **that the Agenda be approved** with the addition of a landscaping item. The motion was seconded and passed. Dave moved **that the minutes be approved** as corrected by Bob Crowe. The motion was seconded and motion passed.

Angela announced “**Good News**” that the budget was up-to-date. After last Sunday’s post-service meeting, she had explained there were four main buckets that we could take money from to help balance the budget. At the end of the meeting, three people came forward with donations totaling \$9,000. Dave will create a form for the donors to sign.

Dave gave the **treasurer’s report**. He noted that for the past few months we have been ahead in income over expenses. The pledge drive came in at \$117,000. The budget situation is healthy for this year. In March, employment compensation expenses were higher, and we had our endowment loan to pay back. The plate collection for the first quarter brought in over \$500 for Safe Space. He noted that the endowment committee had not yet met but there had been communication. The Financial Advisor has suggestions for how to invest given the changing times, including possibly more in bonds. Dave will check back with the advisor.

Minister’s Report. Stacy commended Bob Crowe for staying in covenant as he handled a sensitive membership issue. She reported that the Caring Committee was planning a Gratitude Service but that it had to be postponed from its original day of April 27. A new date of June 8 is proposed. This would be combined with a Flower Communion. All volunteers could be recognized in the Gratitude Service.

Stacy reported that she sought to schedule meaningful opportunities for engagement during her in-person time with the Fellowship. She asks for feedback on what folks would like. She has scheduled the Soul matters group, and an In-body group focused on the theme of the month. She seeks to support the life and well-being being of the Fellowship as she tries to put together a mosaic of activities. She appreciates feedback.

Nominating Committee Report. Guest, Marvey Meuller was introduced. She provided a handout of 2024-25 Elected Leaders, and 2025-26 Nominated Leaders. Marvey noted that the nominating process needed in-depth work. She started the process in February. She was disturbed that the number of members eligible for leadership was limited. In discussing the situation, she found that the current Leadership was exhausted from carrying heavy loads. In conversation with Stacy, she focused on the concept of "Congregation of Polity:" that our congregation was responsible for itself: and that our leaders needed a break. She sees that TW Theodore, the nominee for Board President, is a placeholder while people catch their breath. In the process, she talked to others who might be ready to work. She noted that there is much talent in the congregation and support for committee leadership. She read the names of those nominated for congregational office for the coming year.

It was suggested that Tyler be given the list of committees and chairs, to be posted in the Members Only section of the website.

Angela reminded the Board that Board members were liaisons to the committees, and that committee reports should be submitted. She will ask Tyler to handle updated reports.

All-Fellowship Meeting. The Annual meeting will be on May 18. Angela recommends having a meeting in advance to handle questions about the budget. Contributions and pledges will be recorded on separate line items in the budget. Merrily agreed to write the e-news announcement which must be submitted by April 28.

The budget can be placed on the website—linked from the announcement in the e-news. (The link should not go to google drive.) Stacy will attend the Annual Meeting via Zoom. She noted that those members who signed the book in March would be eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting. Lucy and Angela, as members of the Membership Committee, will work to update the membership list on OneChurch.

The Finance committee will meet to review the aspirational budget and determine how to distribute the recent donations. Board members are welcome to attend the meeting.

Soundboard/AV System. Discussion focused on the salary of our Sunday Tech. He is working two hours but is budgeted for 1 ½. At \$17.00 minimum wage, there will be an increase of \$8.00 - \$12.00. There was general approval for this increase.

Report on Grounds. Bob Crowe reported that a hired crew from the Rescue Mission had cleaned up the Fellowship grounds. After discussion, **Dave moved that we pay \$450 to the Chico Rescue Mission.** The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Bob also commented we might consider negotiating (or offer) a pre-paid service schedule for the next fiscal year if the Chico Rescue Mission is agreeable. He thinks we might be able to assume additional cost savings.

He reported that he had removed several old garden tools & the non-operating lawnmowers from the garden shed and that some additional items on our campus need

to be hauled away - he will follow up shortly to schedule a waste pick-up service. He noted we don't have a bulky waste pick-up option with our trash company. Bob also purchased a new leaf blower and weed trimmer at Home Depot. His Buildings and Grounds budget of \$2500 for this year does not include implementing any part of Adriene's proposed landscape plan.

Update on OneChurch: Angela suggested having a Members group and New Persons' group in OneChurch. She will call Tyler to contact Dave to work off-hours to create the groups.

2025-2026 Minister Agreement. Stacy noted that April is the time to solidify contracts for the coming year. The year just passed has gone well. She will want to do some tweaking, re long-range planning. There may also be some shifts re the caring committee. The signed contract should be done by the end of April. **Angela will ask Lucy and Meg Brady to join her to create the contract.** The contract will be ready for signature by the May 18th Annual meeting. Stacy will send in suggestions in advance.

Child care for the Summer: It was generally agreed that it would be best to have child care during the summer. Lucy noted Malachi will be free to help. A second worker will be required. **Lucy will reach out to coordinate with Asya.**

General Assembly/delegates. June 18-22. Joan Shepherd will join via Zoom as a delegate. Angela will attend in-person. **Bob Crowe will make an announcement on Sunday to invite folks to attend the GA and to serve as delegates.**

Committee Reports needed for the Annual Report: Angela will send out a request for reports from each of the Committee Chairs. Deadline May 5.

Carry-over Items: At a later date, Bob Caldwell will report on costs of the Security project, and the possibility of funding through Faithify and grants.

The next board meeting will be May 15. The final meeting of the current Board will be June. 19th.

Closing: Angela provided the closing words.

Respectfully submitted,

Merrily Stover
Member, UUFC Board