

Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Date: March 20, 2024

Attending: Lisa Gilley (President), Pat Wydell (Vice President), Debbie Lee (Treasurer), Dan Yokas (Secretary), Denise Sepos, Emilie Cheng, Jerome McDonnell, Ryan Schaeftges Trustees. Reverend Denise Cawley

Lisa Gilley called the regular monthly meeting of the CCUU Board of Trustees to order at 7:00 p.m. Dan shared an opening reading, and the Board members recited the Board Covenant. With a quorum of trustees present, the meeting proceeded with business.

Last Month's Minutes:

Jerome moved to accept the February minutes, and Denise seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Time Sensitive Topics

Financials:

- **Stewardship & Budget Update:** Debbie reported that approximately 60 pledges remain outstanding. Plans are in place to contact those pledge units and determine their intentions. It is estimated that pledges from those who have not yet submitted one will still result in a budget shortfall of approximately \$30,000. The proposed budget is \$509,000, and the current pledge total is \$419,000.
- **Reserved Funds:** \$64,000 in special-project reserved funds remain unused. These funds were raised for specific projects that have not gone forward. Several are contracted, but the majority are not. It is recommended that future reserve funding be time-sensitive and have a maximum time-frame for implementation, after which time we would make unused funds available for the operating budget.
- **February Financials:** Since pledges tend to be front-loaded, 78% of pledges are in. Income accounts are on budget. Operating funds are at \$50,000 over budget. That situation will begin to level out as we go

forward, due to a typical slowing of pledges at the end of the year and expenses that are not typically incurred until later in the church year.

- **Transfer of Funds:** Funds from our Fidelity Account will now be transferred to The Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment Fund (UUCEF).

By-Law Revisions: The Board reviewed the recommended changes to the By-Laws discussed in previous meetings. Debbie made a motion to approve the changes to the By-Laws as discussed for a formal congregational vote at the Annual Meeting. Denise seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Raise The Paddle Donations: Following a discussion of several suggestions for a “Raise The Paddle” appeal at the Time & Talent fundraiser, the Board decided that the best use of additional funding at this time would be to engage in projects to improve our visibility and identity (i.e., branding). Pat moved to submit a request for a “Raise The Paddle” appeal at the Time & Talent Auction for “CCUU Branding,” and Debbie seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Mission Statement & Logo: On Sunday, March 24, 2024, members of the Interim Transition Team will provide an update to the congregation about our new Mission Statement and proposed new Logo. Following the adoption of the Mission Statement and the new Logo, a new “Identity Task Force” will be created, and the work previously begun by the Interim Transition Team will be carried on. Funds for the professional development of a new Logo will be transferred from the Worship budget. Lisa moved to approve the expenditure of \$1,200 for the “Identity” initiative, and Ryan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Hate Mail Update: Following an incident in which a hate message was posted to the front door of the church by an unknown individual/s, Emilie notified the police and our church administrator. Security cameras later identified the perpetrator, who is a minor; the expectation is that, rather than press charges, this case will go through a peer jury program. The Palatine Police Department has indicated that they will continue to provide

routine surveillance of our location. Emile was credited with her quick and appropriate response to this incident.

Additional Topics

Earmarked Funds/Special Donations: The Board discussed dealing with members who wish to direct their monetary or material donations (above and beyond their pledge) to a specific cause or activity. Pat reviewed our current policy and guidelines from our Operations Manual. The Board's predominant feeling was that we should not take “targeted” donations. Pat will be sending out the current language, as it appears in our policy statement for review. No action was taken at this time.

Social Action: Some CCUU members have raised the matter of our congregational activities related to Social Justice. Some initiatives related to social justice actions are hampered by the lack of a formal Social Justice advocacy committee in place to endorse special initiatives. Reverend Denise reminded the Board that we have demonstrated our engagement to Social Justice through our work in Chalice House, Outreach To Our Community Partners, and Share The Plate donations. A discussion followed about whether we need a formal advocacy committee to steer and coordinate those efforts, and the appropriate timing to establish such a committee, in light of a possible new Settled Minister starting. More thought and discussion are needed before making any decisions regarding that issue.

Nomination Committee Update: The Nominating Committee is nearing completion of its recommendations for leadership positions at CCUU. They have identified candidates to replace those who will be rotating off the Board of Trustees.

Audit Update: Karen Epps is nearing completion of the most current audit.

Mortgage Update: Gary LaBedz is in the final stages of securing our new mortgage with Cornerstone National Bank of Palatine. CCUU will also be transferring our Money Market account to that same institution.

Closing Reading & Adjournment

Dan provided a closing reading, and Ryan moved to adjourn. Lisa seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Next Board meeting will be on April 17, 2024.