

UUCB Board of Trustees meeting, April 20, 2021

Board members in attendance: David Reynolds, Cindy Hostetler, Paul Wilson, Samantha Visco, Catherine Barnes, Lisa Hagen, Ann Helms, Tawana Allen.

Staff in attendance: Eve Stevens, Jay Leach.

Staff absent: Alesia Hutto.

Call to Order

- Chalice lighting words (Samantha)
- Vision statement, mission statement and leadership covenant readings

Check-in

Eyes and ears

Discussion of return to in-person activities and other ways that congregation members are staying connected:

- In-person museum visits have started.
- Senior Connections is keeping people connected.
- Six people who began attending after the pandemic attended an in-person session with Jay and Eve outside the building.
- Admiration expressed for the work teens did to plan the Youth Con, even though it ended up being canceled. Older students created “growth space” for younger ones; board members were impressed with and grateful for this work.
- Virtual coffee hours are creating good links between old and new members.

February minutes: Approved but later rescinded for revision.

Coordinating Team reports ([see separate file](#))

Transition back plans: Target date for return to in-person services and CYRE is Sept. 12 (Sunday after Labor Day). Constraints on starting earlier include the need to recruit CYRE teachers, the current limit on inside gatherings and our once-a-month maintenance contract.

There are also concerns about holding a big “re-emergence” celebration in August, when people may be on vacation.

Until then staff will look for more opportunities to bring small groups to the grounds and/or the building. If the board wants to hold in-person meetings, chairs should let the CT know.

Core group participation: Jay noted that 84 of almost 600 members have taken part in at least one group, some of them more than one. Probably not the number needed to change the community’s culture, but he could see us getting close.

Interim lifespan RE director search: Second interviews are coming up for two candidates. Goal is to have the person start in July or August.

Budget/finance: The CT has created a draft budget and presented it to the Finance Team. Staff will make sure the board gets a copy of the final plan before the May meeting.

Member participation: David expressed gratitude for the tracking and the outreach to engage visitors.

CARES fund: The group discussed when and how this fund will end and where the money will go. Jay said the plan is to eventually roll it into a congregational aid fund that isn’t tied to the pandemic, but the pandemic and its aftermath are not over yet and there’s no clear end date in sight.

Ongoing activity: Eve and Jay reported that the Focus 2020 group is choosing the design and working with electricians on signs that will go on the Sharon Amity side of the grounds and on the stair tower.

Appreciation was expressed for the Building and Grounds Team’s work and for Camilla Mazzotta’s work designing content for Discovery Circles.

Current business

Leadership/budget: On March 22 the board held a special closed meeting to discuss a proposal Jay had presented at the regular meeting. After communication between Jay and board chairs, the board agreed that meeting was out of compliance with our governing policies. Given ongoing challenges in communication, the board and coordinating team agreed to table that proposal and work with a UUA consultant on a plan to move forward.

The board voted 8-1 to rescind approval of the March minutes and revise them to delete details that are no longer relevant.

Nominating committee: David reported that Susan Cox has agreed to serve the one year remaining on Rocky Hendrick's term. The committee is working on nominees for the three full terms that start in July 2021.

Congregational conversation planning: Cindy will prepare an outline for the board to review and will ask for sign-ups for various roles. Kelly Greene will pull information for presentation of the Sybil Bernstein award.

Right relations communication plan: The first opportunity for community input on the covenant drew a small crowd, mostly people involved with creating the covenant. Two more opportunities will be offered in May. There was discussion of effective ways to let people know about this; an email blast was rejected but posting on the member Facebook page was suggested.

Measurement team: No report.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.