



## UCC Board of Trustees meeting, June 15, 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, Alesia Hutto.

**Visitors in attendance:** Ben Baxter (board member-elect).

### Call to Order

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

### Check-in

### Eyes and ears

Members agreed the community conversation went well, despite low attendance.

Virtual and real-life gatherings such as a singing group that meets at Sage and Dale Brooks' house, a UCC Dungeons & Dragons group and the new Sunday post-service singing are giving people a sense of connection.

Jay noted that an in-person memorial service for Don Crawford brought a bittersweet gathering of longtime members and a reminder of the depth of our community.

### Minutes

May minutes unanimously approved with one correction.

Minutes from the congregational conversation were not available for group review. Board agreed to review and approve electronically to get them posted in a timely manner.

### Coordinating team reports

**Lifespan Religious Education search:** Eve reported that the search team made an offer to someone who then took a position elsewhere. The new plan is to continue working toward a permanent hire in summer 2022, with the interim year filled by four part-time contract positions. Two of those people will work with younger children and youth and one with older (exact division of grade levels TBD) and the fourth will handle adult programming. Those four will work as a team with Eve and a part-time administrative support person.

Jay added that this plan is within the parameters of the budget approved earlier this month.

**Transition back plans:** Jay reported that we are starting to bring people back to the grounds for CYRE and after-service singing, which will continue at least through June. There's discussion about when/whether to allow CYRE to meet inside in case of rain.

He reported that many questions remain, such as how to deal with the likelihood that children under 12 will not be vaccinated by the time of our scheduled September return and whether it will be safe to allow singing inside at that time. Choir rehearsals are being held outside. Jay said John Herrick has checked with other congregations and found that no one is rehearsing inside yet.

Views about timing and strategies are mixed within the congregation.

**Membership participation:** Alesia reported that participation in virtual services declined this month and speculated that it's related to people having more opportunities to get out and do

other things in person. She also noted that attendance traditionally declines in the summer. She said the April Fun Festival had low attendance but was a joyous event.

Jay noted that an array of small in-person gatherings at 234 are planned for the summer.

Alesia said affinity groups are meeting in virtual and some in-person settings, and said the process for renewing affinity groups and proposing new ones is beginning.

No one will be asked about their vaccination status in connection with participation in in-person events, but attendance may be capped to ensure safe distancing.

**Open Door School managing team:** The board had previously approved one slate of prospective team members and one person agreed to serve, but another member is needed so the board needed to approve a new list. **The board unanimously approved the list presented.**

**Intersectional justice:** David asked about plans for the coming year's intersectional justice efforts, now that we've been through some cycles of core and engagement groups. Jay said that will be discussed in July.

**New summer schedule:** David asked about the 9 a.m. coffee hour. Eve said that the first session had about half as many participants as the earlier virtual coffee hours that were held after an 11:15 service.

## **Current business**

**Covenant update:** Catherine reported that after the covenant was approved in the congregational conversation, Bill Gay emailed saying the task group considers itself dissolved and forwarded records for archiving. Some board members thought the task group had previously voiced willingness to be part of the implementation process; Catherine will check with Bill to see whether some or all members are interested.

The new board will move forward with introducing the covenant and setting up a process to deal with disputes and violations. David suggested that effort be led by a group selected from the congregation, rather than a board subcommittee. Lisa was designated as the liaison to that group.

**Dinner and recognition:** David said he'd like to take the board and professional staff to dinner at the City Club at a date to be determined. Members and staff present supported the idea.

Ann suggested sending notes to recognize staff and key volunteers who have helped keep the community connected and active during this difficult year. Board members agreed and said they'd like to participate. Ann will work with Eve and Kelly to come up with a list and circulate it to members.

**New officers:** Paul Wilson and Ann Doss Helms volunteered to serve as co-chairs for 2021-22. **The board unanimously approved them.**

**Samantha Visco was unanimously elected secretary for the coming year.** Ann will work with her on the handoff.

**Google drive:** Cindy and Ann discussed efforts to make sure the records of the 2020-21 year are complete, and prepare the handoff for the coming year. Cindy advised that approved minutes should be sent to Belinda Parry for posting to the UUCS website.

Jay said the staff is working toward a standardized archiving system and plans to migrate all records to OneDrive next year.

**Goals and measures:** Paul reported that a four-person working group held discussions but lost focus as other matters demanded attention. The board agreed this should be revived in the coming year. Paul will pull together notes on the process to date.

**New member orientation:** The current board agreed there needs to be focus on what the board does and doesn't do. New chairs and ministers will figure out a time/date.

The three departing members said they'll submit "What I wish I knew when I started" notes to provide insights and guidance.

Continuing members agreed the orientation will be virtual because of ongoing health concerns about in-person sessions.

Open meeting adjourned at 8:25.

Closed session convened at 8:30 with both ministers and all current board members.  
Adjourned at 9 p.m.