

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF NEWARK

Winter State of the Fellowship Congregational Meeting
Sunday January 26, 2020, 12:00pm

MEETING MINUTES

Welcome and call to order

Our Board President, Carol Boncelet, welcomed everyone and thanked our kitchen elves. Carol read our Covenant of Right Relations.

Chalice lighting

Rev. Don Garrett

Establish quorum

- Quorum was established by Leadership Development. 56 members in attendance (29 makes quorum).

Vote on approving October 2019 Congregational Meeting minutes

- October 2019 Congregational Minutes were unanimously approved.
- May 2019 Congregational Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.

Vote on Endowment Grants (Lois Hoffman)

- The amount available is \$5,400.
- The total requested was \$6,693.
- Endowment committee approved:
 - Lobby beautification \$500 (requested \$1,500)
 - Social Media Training \$1,125
 - Conflict Transformation
 - The Endowment Grants were unanimously approved.
- Lois discussed the need to grow the endowment fund. If you have any ideas or experience with planned giving, please endowment@uufn.org.

Treasurer's Report (Glen Schmiesing)

- Recent developments:
 - Purchased a new computer for the bookkeeper
 - Tax statements will be issued this week
 - Quarterly pledge statements should be issued this coming week. Everyone should be receiving monthly statements going forward. If you don't receive them, please email treasurer@uufn.org
 - Reviewed July 1 – Dec 31 statement of receipts and expenses
 - Expenses have been under budget, so we have a net income of just over \$56K.
 - We are currently under budgeted expenses. This is saving us money, but please spend your budget if you need it to achieve our long-range plans.
 - Reviewed UUFN's Financial Position and Endowment Fund

- Budget requests are due February 1, 2020 to treasurer@uufn.org. Thank you to those who have already submitted.
- March is our pledge campaign.
- In April, we will review the pledge results and next year's budget.
- The budget approval of FY2020-2021 is planned to take place at the May Congregational meeting.
- UUFN now has a charge card. Details about usage of the credit card(s) will be shared with appropriate parties soon.

Minister's Update (Rev. Don Garrett)

- Don reported on his time with UUFN so far; sharing the sentiment that his time with UUFN has been positive and that he hopes the congregation agrees that his match with our fellowship is a good one.

Religious Education Update (Andrea Harding)

- Update on the RE program.
- The young adults are raising funds for their trip to GA.
- Great group of nursery volunteers, we've had a few new friends join.
- Youth group has done service and volunteer work at the Western Y, at UUFN, and for members of our community.
- Young adults are meeting regularly and the numbers have increased to ten.
- The RE team is looking for opportunities to facilitate multi-generational education. The Greta's Friends program has begun (partnership with social justice). If you are interested in learning more, please join us on Feb. 2nd after service.
- Friendship Sunday will be held on February 9th and will include a mall "detective activity" with the goal to introduce and connect our RE kids to our UUFN adults. Please sign up on the bulletin board.
- We had a successful parent's night out in December; there will be another one planned for February.
- Don is leading RE Theology program this spring. If you are interested, please sign up.
- We do need assistance in the elementary class. We will be losing some of our long-term volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Andrea.
- Our preparations to attend GA are underway. Thank you for the endowment support and the congregation's support of our youth and young adults!

President's Update (Carol Boncelet) & Long-Range Planning (Marie LaBerge)

Marie:

- Thank you to all the committees and teams who have provided updates on their parts of the plan to date.
- The action plan is on the website.
- 7 areas for action items:
 - Spirituality
 - We successfully hired a half time minister, Don Garrett! Ongoing Chalice Circles and Women's Spirituality.

- RE Program is robust and growing
 - The (long-range planning) LRP committee will be attending the conflict transformation workshop coming up.
 - Helping hands is active and connecting.
- Growth
 - This is an area that we need more work around. First, we need to define what we mean by growth and how will this impact us. The lobby beautification project will be underway.
 - Still need to: have a congregational workshop to discuss growth, what we mean by it, and how we want to approach it.
- Community
 - Developing opportunities to get to know one another in a variety of settings: chili cook off, social justice work, potlucks, pastoral care, etc.
- Culture of Service
 - Connect and Serve Sunday
 - The Leadership Development Committee (LDC) is working with Leidy to create a database of skills and jobs that need to be done.
- Communication
 - Emails, announcements, postings are on the website.
 - Committee and team email addresses can also be found on our website.
 - Committees and teams regularly use UUpdate and Connections.
 - Social media will be an area of new growth.
 - We are active in the Delmarva cluster.
 - We need to figure out a way to more effectively share information from the cluster to the congregation.
- Finances and Sustainability
 - Primary goal: have a strong financial base which allows to fully meet our mission within the limits of our budget. We have financial transparency. The Board is in communication with finance and property consistently and both teams are working on an assessment and regarding how capital needs should be addressed.
 - We will eventually need to consider a capital campaign.
 - Kitchen team is working to keep our kitchen a green kitchen.
 - Safety team recently provided a safety training.
- Administration
 - There is a need to strengthen our governance systems and transfer of knowledge and policies.
 - We are creating a database of tasks and positions that will help the congregation fill volunteer roles to support our mission.
- Marie's term with LRP will be over at end of this fiscal year; we are looking for another team member to replace Marie in 2020 – 2021 year.

Carol:

- The Board has appointed 3 delegates for General Assembly (GA): Glen, Bev, and Carol. Others are able to attend if they'd like to. The delegates will report back on the highlights of GA after they return.
- Ceiling Task Force: We need a task force to come together to fix the ceiling. We are looking for volunteers to participate. Please contact Carol if you are interested.
- The board has decided that any project that is above \$2,000 needs oversight by a Task Force (these will be considered capital expenditures).
- Please make sure to get your budget requests in based on what your committee and/or teams plan to accomplish in the next fiscal year.
- At the May Congregational Meeting we will be voting on board positions: we will have two open board positions. Leadership Development and Endowment will also have openings.

Extinguish chalice and adjourn meeting

- Thank you for coming!