

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana

Seeking the Spirit, Building Community, Changing the World

Approved Board Minutes

August 19, 2021



<u>A.</u>	<u>CALL TO ORDER</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>B.</u>	<u>CHALICE LIGHTING</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>C.</u>	<u>APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>D.</u>	<u>SENIOR MINISTER'S REPORT</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>E.</u>	<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>	<u>2</u>
A.	SPECIAL PURPOSE FUND REPORT	2
<u>F.</u>	<u>TREASURER'S UPDATE</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>G.</u>	<u>OLD BUSINESS</u>	<u>3</u>
A.	REPORT FROM RE CONSULTANT MICHELE GROVE	3
B.	UPDATE FROM NEST COMMITTEE	3
C.	PLANNING OF THE BOARD ADVANCE	3
<u>H.</u>	<u>HOUSEKEEPING</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>I.</u>	<u>EXECUTIVE SESSION</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>J.</u>	<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>	<u>3</u>

Board members attending: Stuart Yoak, Steven Gilbert, Rich Slabach, Jane McLeod, Drew Schrader

Board members absent: Abby Gitlitz, Julie Lawson

Ministers attending: Revs. Mary Ann Macklin, Emily Manvel Leite

Present by invitation: Michele Grove, Andrew Appel

Submitted by: Steven Gilbert, Secretary

Attached Documents:

- A. Senior Ministers Report
- B. Overview of SPF Functions
- C. Motion Regarding Ministerial Housing Allowances
- D. Nest Report

A. Call to Order

President Stuart Yoak called the online meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

B. Chalice Lighting

Rich Slabach lit the candle and provided the reading.

C. Approval of the Minutes

Jane McLeod moved for approval of the July Board meeting minutes. After a second, the motion carried.

D. Senior Minister's Report

Rev. Macklin reported that her primary goals for the coming year would be to ensure the financial and spiritual health of the church. In meeting with other ministers from UU churches of similar size, she noted that most report problems similar to those confronting UUCB with regard to attendance, finances, and so on. Her full report is included as Attachment A.

E. New Business

A. Special Purpose Fund Report

Chair Andrew Appel introduced Michele Grove to the functions of the SPF (Attachment B) as well as the formats for annual and quarterly SPF reports. In general, the SPF funds are doing well at present. One of his stated goals in the short term is to add more content to the UUCB's SPF website. In response to a query, he also said he believes that at present the SPF is probably not used enough; but that since our endowment is only about 1/10 the size of the endowments of nonprofits of similar size with similar budgets, care must be taken to increase accessibility without depleting available funds.

F. Treasurer's Update

Rich Slabach moved for approval of ministerial housing allowances as shown in Attachment C. Following a second, the motion carried.

Rich said he was pleased as the \$11K growth in pledge amounts since his last report. He is currently revising the layout of financial statements. One concern he raised is that many so-called T funds, which are essentially "holds" put on monies for use by various groups and purposes, are either not being used or being fully used. He would like to see these funds used, or returned to the general fund for other purposes.

G. Old Business

A. Report from RE Consultant Michele Grove

Michele Grove reports preliminary online meetings with RE staff member Stephanie Kimball has been very encouraging and that she will be in town next week for in-person meetings. She intends to have plans for her next steps in place by the end of August.

B. Update from Nest Committee

Jane McLeod reported that the state of affairs with regard to reopening is basically the information already provided in the UUCB Friday Updates and Prologue (Attachment D). The Committee is using data-driven means for determining its next steps, which will be updated at least monthly.

C. Planning of the Board Advance

Stuart Yoak reported that David Pyle is willing to meet with the Board for its Fall advance but that dates are currently uncertain. He hopes to meet in September.

H. Housekeeping

Readings and Announcements are filled through the next Board meeting in September.

I. Executive Session

The board entered executive session at 8:38 p.m.

J. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

ATTACHMENT A

Senior Minister's Report August 18th, 2021 Reverend Mary Ann Macklin

As we move into another transitional time with our ministerial team, know that my top goal for the 2021-2022 year is to ensure the fiscal and spiritual health of this congregation. I also want to create a sense of spaciousness and non-urgency as we go forward with this work and ministry. My motto this year is the least amount of effort for the greatest gain. We are all reeling with so much

This past week I attended a very helpful Zoom meeting with Senior Ministers of Large Unitarian Universalist Congregations. The acronym seems to lack imagination SMOLUUC, but what can I say, I didn't offer to make it up. In terms on Covid19, the Delta Variant has introduced yet another variable in many of our plans for reopening in September. Two items that were repeated by the UUA President is masking for everything and the evidence that vaccine effectiveness appears to be waning. We just heard about plans for Booster shots this past week from the US government. Also emphasized by nearly all the ministers is the care and outreach we offer to our families with small children. Several Senior Ministers or Lead Ministers believe they may have already lost 1/3 of their congregation due to the distance caused by Covid. We have all noticed a drop in attendance this summer of our livestreaming services.

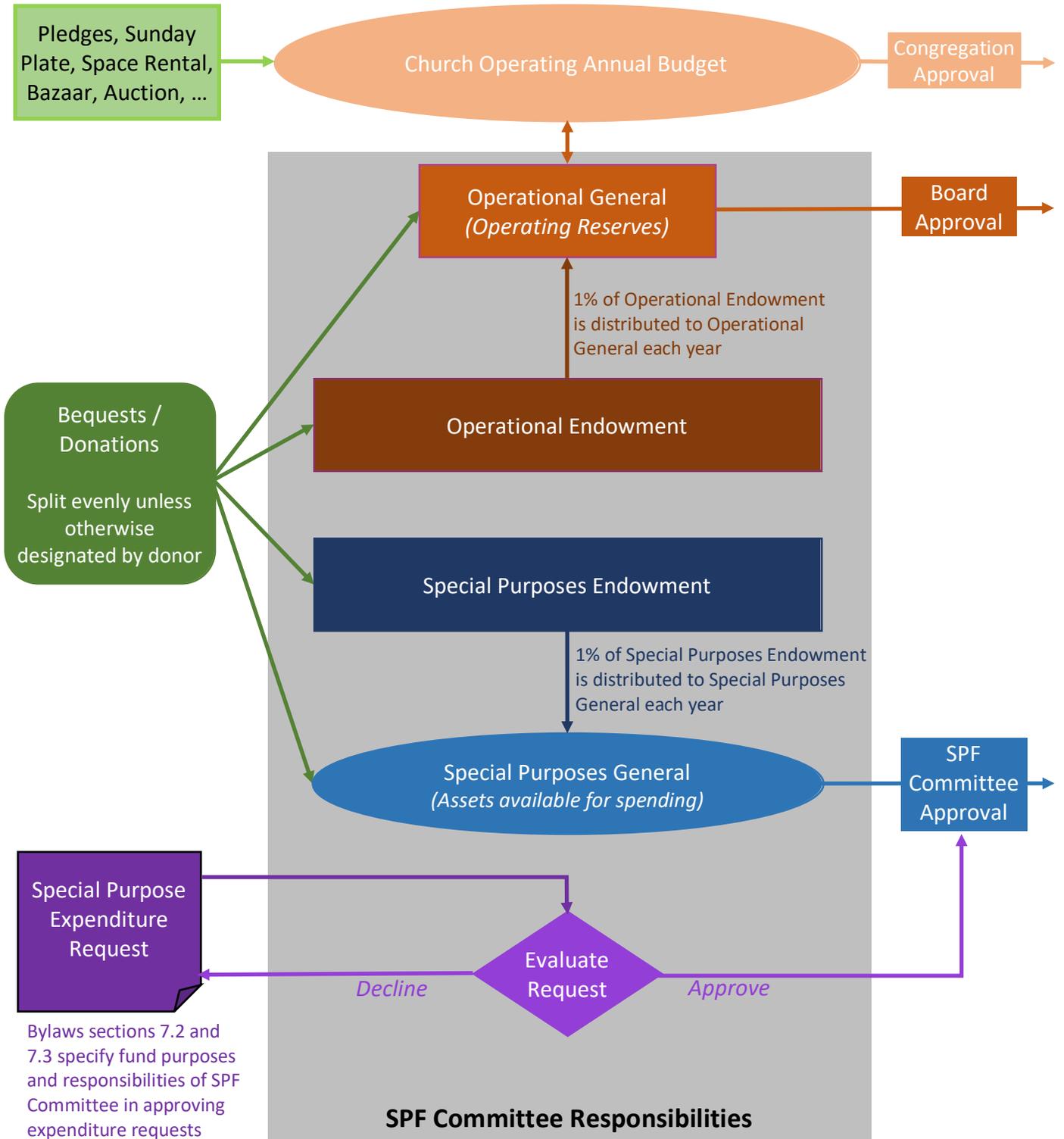
The minimum amount for our pledge drive and budget to work is \$620,000. Currently our pledge drive amount is \$587,000. Due to the changes in ministry that will be occurring soon, I am delaying my letter to major donors which will ask them to increase their pledges for 2021-2022.

You will be hearing from our NEST Working Group soon. We are meeting this Sunday afternoon, August 22nd to explore possible reopening scenarios in accordance with new guidelines from the UUA which just came out.

We are working on the recent glitches that have occurred during our livestream worship services on Sunday. I am meeting regularly with Andy Beargie as well as Hans Kelson, whom we plan to hire soon as our new Media Specialist to replace Ned Joyner, who is off to being his second year at Union Theological Seminary.

Peace, Mary Ann

Special Purposes Fund (SPF) Committee Responsibilities in the Context of UUCB Overall Income and Expenditures



ATTACHMENT C

Move to approve the housing allowance as laid out in the 2021-2022 Budget:

Senior Minister: 21,850

Interim Minister: 25,000

Minister of Story and Ritual: 17,000

ATTACHMENT D

Dear UUCB friends,

As previously announced, we had hoped to return to in-person worship services on September 5th. In light of the worsening public health situation in Monroe and surrounding counties, we are currently reassessing and will make an announcement after our August 22 NEST meeting.

This update below describes the basis for our current status of church operations. Please note that we are currently in **Restricted Access status**.

Decision-Making Metrics

The metrics subcommittee has developed a [five-level classification of risk](#) that maps onto the classifications published by [Covid Act Now](#). With the advice of the metrics subcommittee, the NEST working group plans to evaluate risk toward the end of each month, using the risk levels for Monroe, Owen, and Brown counties to guide our decision-making. As of this week, Monroe County is classified as high risk, and Owen and Brown counties are classified as very high risk.

Current Building Status – RESTRICTED ACCESS

- Our building is closed.
- Small groups of 5 or fewer may meet in the church building, with advance notice, if their work cannot be accomplished elsewhere.
- Ministers, staff, and a few Board members have some access to the building.

Worship Services - VIRTUAL

- We will continue broadcasting services online from our sanctuary.
- Our ministerial team is continuing to explore ways we can be together safely in outdoor settings.

Please know that we are working with the best scientific information available and following the recommendations of local, regional, and national public health authorities. We will feature the current status of church operations [on our website](#) so that you can stay informed and make decisions that support your well-being and the welfare of your family and community.

Warmest Regards,

The NEST Working Group: Jane McLeod, Abby Gitlitz, Melinda Swenson, Ann LeDuc, Reverend Macklin, and Reverend Clements

The Metrics subcommittee: Melinda Swenson, Dan Lodge-Rigal, Judy Klein, Rich LeDuc, and Sarah Sanchez.