

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana

Seeking the Spirit, Building Community, Changing the World

Approved **Congregational Meeting** Minutes

June 4, 2023



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Submitted by Regina DiLavore, Secretary

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Lead Minister Report
- B. Minister of Story and Ritual Report

Opening

President Abby Gitlitz called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

Reverends Grant and Leite lit the chalice and delivered the opening words.

Vice President Abby Gitlitz provided guidelines for the meeting.

President Gitlitz introduced Parliamentarian Steve Dillon.

Lead Minister Report

Reverend Connie Grant summarized the projects and goals UUCB staff have been working over the past six months:

1. Staff restructuring
2. Review of church by-laws and revisions
3. Decision not to hire a second minister
4. Created Director of Administrations position
5. Increased hours of the Administrative Assistant and Administrative Coordinator
6. Created new position for Technology Coordinator
7. Eliminated the position of Minister of Story and Ritual

The Church by-laws are being revised by Stuart Yoak, Marg Craig and Steve Dillon. The goal is to update and streamline them as the old governance model was not effective for UUCB.

Recognition of Staff

New Staff

Amanda Waye – Director of Administration

Hans Kelson – Technology Coordinator

Departing Staff

Monica Overman – Office Assistant since 2012, Administrative Assistant six months

Jill Courtney – Children’s Choir Director

Reverend Emily Leite – Minister of Story and Ritual. Further farewell festivities are planned for June 18.

Minister of Story and Ritual Report

This year Reverend Leite focused on four areas and then can be reviewed in the attached report. Reverend Leite summarized what she has learned about the UUCB Congregation.

1. UUCB Plays together as a congregation
2. Congregants are open to holy reverence
3. UUCB is a justice seeking congregation
4. UUCB asked to learn more about indigenous people
5. UUCB Congregants built houses, fed the hungry and visited the incarcerated
6. UUCB shared joy in music
7. UUCB honors our beloved community through commissioned performances.
8. UUCB is an open-hearted community
9. UUCB celebrated and mourned together

Reverend Leite closed by saying that she made mistakes, learned together and loved offering support and mentoring to the children and youth of the congregation.

Technology Coordinator Report

Hans Kelson summarized his job responsibilities as the Technology Coordinator

1. Set up and maintain Sunday service livestream
2. Conduct all AV work for the congregation
3. Develop slides for services and other events
4. Edit and test video as needed
5. Organize and archive files
6. Provide IT support to the staff
7. Maintain multimedia systems

Hans Kelson announced that he is rebuilding the UUCB website and is currently being rolled out. The new website can be found at new.uubloomington.org

Topics are aligned with the UUA organization and is integrated with UUCB systems. The website has a list of upcoming events and is synced with the Church Planning Center. The website is designed to be consistent and up-to-date. The order of service can easily be viewed on a phone and it follows the web content accessibility standards.

Director of Religious Education Support

Stephanie Kimball opened her report discussing how Religious Education (RE) is the place where we keep questions alive through spirituality, truth, questions, and reflection.

Stephanie summarized the strong interest in Adult RE:

1. Spiritual Deepening
2. Dismantling White Supremacy
3. UU Identity, Theology and History
4. Social Justice (RE is partnering with the Social Justice Committee)
5. Adult Our Whole Lives (OWL) class

Next year Adult RE will build on these themes and the new schedule will be available in August.

Stephanie summarized the status of the RE program for children. Families have not been returning in great numbers post COVID, consequently the program is having a hard time finding adult volunteers. They are experimenting with adding short courses at alternate times from the service. In addition, a youth library is being established. The OWL program has been caught up from the pandemic disruption and the Coming of Age program and Youth program are currently in action.

Next year there will be new RE support positions integrated into the RE support staff, a new indigenous studies working group will be established along with a Youth Empowerment Program.

Committee and Task Force Updates

Planned Giving Report

Ann Kamman described the planned giving group as approximately 90-100 congregants who have made arrangements in advance to provide to the church, also known as the legacy circle. This is a sign of congregational health. The celebration of the Legacy Circle will be in September.

Social Justice Report

Jackie Hall invited the Social Justice Task leaders forward. The following Social Justice groups were represented:

1. Reproductive Justice – Pat Slabach
2. Hunger Task Force – Dee Morris (Mary Blizzard was recognized)
3. RISE – Barb Backler
4. Homeless Task Force – Allen Backler
5. Just Peace Force – David Keppel
6. Green Sanctuary – Marsha Veldman
7. Habitat for Humanity – Barb Goetz
8. Rainbow Rights – Jason McCollic
9. Hope for Prisoners - ? for Deb Fish
10. Racial Justice – Ruth Aydt

Special Purposed Fund (SPF)

Andrew Appel provided the names of congregants on the Special Purposes Fund committee:

Andrew Appel (Chair)

Doris Wittenberg

Ruth Adyt

Rich Slabach

Linda Pickle

Andrew Appel described the objective of the committee is to support charitable activities. This fund is not part of the church's operating budget and funds original music composition, HVAC in the RE building and will provide fall Social Justice grants. The committee will provide more visibility into their meeting minutes.

Andrew indicated that SPF has divested fossil fuel investments from **Baird** to Vanguard. There has been some growth from investments last year with about 9% in fossil fuel divested accounts. Andrew stated that if any program is not covered by the operating fund, then SPF will consider requests.

Quorum Report

Board Member Jane McLeod reported 118 attendees, exceeding the 10%, of the total membership required to conduct business.

Vote to Select 25% Sunday Plate Recipient

The congregation voted on the 25% Sunday plate recipient, ballots were collected by members of the Board.

Leadership Cultivation Committee (LCC) Report

Denise Breeden-Ost provided the names of the members of the committee:

- Michael McGregor
- Abby Gitlitz
- Carol McCord
- Nicole Motz
- Rev Connie Grant
- Anabel Watson

Denise described the objective of the committee is to develop leadership and engagement conversations for the Board, SPF, LCC and other committees. The engagement conversations are designed for the LCC to get acquainted with congregants and their skills. If you are contacted by the LLC, consider taking part.

Motion to Elect to Board slate

Jane McCleod as Vice President of the Board, Mary Craig as Board at Large Member, and Bill Lonnberg as Board Treasurer.

Denis Breeden-Ost moved to nominate the Board slate. Julie Lawson seconded the motion and the motion carried. There was one abstention.

Motion to Elect to Special Purposes Fund Slate

Deb Hutton, Doris F. Wittenberg and Andrew Appel.

Denise Breeden-Ost moved to nominate the SPF slate. Libby Devoe seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Motion to Elect to Leadership Cultivation Committee Slate

Kathleen Sidelli, Christy true and Glenda Breeden.

Denise motioned to elect the LCC slate, David Keppel seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Search Committee Election

Motion to Elect Lead Minister Search Committee Slate

Christine Banister, Denise Breeden-Ost, **Olaya** Fernandez Gayol, Michael McGregor, Ann Kamman, Mary Beth O'Brien and Von Welch.

Abby Gitlitz moved to elect the Lead Minister Search Committee Slate. Reverend Grant seconded the motion. A summary of the ensuing discussion is provided.

Harold

x provided support for the committee and its great responsibility. The committee needs to look at social action groups and find a leader that honors the humanist foundation in the church. Abby Gitlitz explained what the search committee will be doing and how they were selected. Abby Gitlitz also stated that 120 members were nominated for the committee.

Jeane Meyers

President's and Vice-President's Report

President Yoak and Vice-President Abby Gitlitz reviewed significant events and accomplishments of the past year and paid tribute to the many people who made the successes of the year possible.

Adjournment

President Yoak adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

