

## **FU Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes. July 11, 2024**

**Present:** J Hill, P Moore, D Hutchinson, M Klecan, B Adams, S Bloomfield, G Haley

**Absent:** S Williams

Meeting called to order (in sanctuary) about 4:33 pm

### **Consent agenda:**

1. June 2024 meeting minutes approved unanimously, with addition of Mary Klecan's name to Board liaison to Restoring Wholeness Committee
2. Orientation for Board set for July 24, 4-6 pm in Conference Room; all can attend except S Bloomfield
3. Board retreat scheduled at 2700 Silver Creek on August 2-3, 2024. Time for Friday, 8/2 will be 2 – 6 pm, and on Saturday from 9 am- 3 pm.
4. Save the Date for CO-WY UU Gathering: Oct 12, here at Foothills U, likely 10 am – 6 pm. This will be for Board of Trustees members and ministers.
5. Gretchen and Diana announced Aug 11 workshop with Caitlin Walker on Building Bridges/Clean Questions, encouraging all to consider attending. Open to all congregants.
6. Conflict of interest disclosure forms distributed; all board members must complete and return to Mary K

### **Regular agenda:**

1. Minister's report highlights
  - a. We have 31 new members (net gain of 21)!
  - b. Robust Sunday worship attendance—1300 more people in Q2 this year than last year. Welcomed at least 11,000 visits this first half year, which vastly exceeds last year and nearly exceeds total for 2022.
  - c. Bylaws change to require small group leaders to be members still runs into some resistance, but the transition process is going fairly well—this is an important change vis-à-vis liability issues.
  - d. Upcoming transition to holding children's RE at BOTH services presents challenges but should provide more options to all.
  - e. Dilemma: the gains in membership have NOT translated to increases in giving (particularly donations/pledges). Must re-imagine pledge drive, especially with outreach to new members (perhaps starting in August)... thus far no significant (5-figure) gifts this year.
  - f. Benjamin Hansen (Music Director) officially resigned as of May 31. We have advertised for full-time Music Director, and already have some 10 applications. Goal is to have an offer out by the end of August to start September. Sophia Miller (music interim ) is amenable to continuing into mid-September.
  - g. Working on getting the congregational survey filled out – ACTION ITEM: all Board members should get this done ASAP!

- h. GH goal for Board: Communicate out what did and did NOT get done vis-à-vis original building expansion plans, plus discuss accomplishments/ new initiatives made possible by extra room
  - i. Property insurance company (Church Mutual) dropped us! (unclear reasons, they are dropping many churches' policies across the nation)..... We must find a new carrier within 2 months to avoid a gap in coverage.
  - j. Staff survey results in: mostly good news(see report)
  - k. Giving data to date: we are at 52% of Share the Plate yearly goals, at 47% of pledge giving, but at 21% of expected donations.
  - l. Having lost Kelsey DiAstra, we've lost our talented grant writer
2. Short discussion of the future vision of Rev. Gretchen's – seeding smaller UU communities in No CO and in So WYO—Laramie? (very small fellowship there now, n=14) and especially Wellington. Sean and GH will meet soon with the mayor of Wellington to explore ideas. Start viewing parties in satellite towns? At U of Wyoming? How about being a very public advocate for better public transportation? Could we buy a mobile home to use for transitional housing?
  3. Brief review of financials: GH will bring Q1 and Q2 financial summaries to August Board meeting. The YPTC controller is now in place doing much better than the previous liaison.
  4. Monitoring items:
    - a. Policy 4.2.4 External Audit Timetable (UUA)—this has rarely been completed. We should move towards getting this done this year, but it does incur ~\$10K in costs. Last done in 2020; should be done every 5 years, so could put this cost into next year's budget.
    - b. Finance Handbook--- Rev Gretchen reports “mostly updated”.
    - c. Operations Handbook--- main deficit is in safety procedures, need to be compiled and entered.
      - i. Safety Team has pointed out need for another exit out of new sanctuary—would require some investment to solve this
    - d. Mary K asks: How is the Senior Minister-Board relationship working? GH calls it a working, collaborative relationship in which each party is 100% responsible. She is functionally CEO and knows day-to-day issues in depth
    - e. Mary K reminds us that this year one key task for the Board is starting up the Visioning process—“can be exciting!”
  5. What does the congregation need to know: October 12 UU's in CO-WY meeting; GH says Aug 11 workshop will be publicized by staff; remind all of Water Ceremony Aug 11; Aug 18 we return to 2 services, 9 and 11 am. The Human Library (sponsored by BIPOC, City of Fort Collins, Poudre Library, Yarrow Collective etc) will be held at Museum of Discovery on a Sunday 8/4/24, 2-5 pm

Submitted by Sue Bloomfield