

August 27, 2020 Board Meeting 7:00 start

Board members present: Ron Lovell, Patrick Larson, Betty Tilton, Louis Merlin, Sandy Troiano, Paul Libert, Carrie Viles, Carlton Devot, Barb Jensen (joined late)

Chalice lighting

Others present: Carolyn Brown, Rev Harris Riordan, Jim and Lynn Smith, Patricia Rogers, John Tilton, Doug Hughes, Helen Schuman, Donna Musial; Rick Troiano; Elon Bateman; Marcella Gould; Mary Wickensheimer

Approved minutes from June and July, Moved by Paul, 2nd by Carrie; unanimous approval

Harris: summation asked for by Sandy. Petition has been withdrawn;

Areas of conversation: emails have caused hurt feelings and folks to wonder if UUFBR is the place for them

How do we do better? How do we stay in covenant with one another?

We are not doing as well as we could to support one another. We are spiritual and active. We are not supporting both paths.

What can we do to support both paths and each other?

Harris needs help to further a platform to further the conversation to help all of us

(Barb joined meeting at 7:20)

Louis: urged us to think differently as board members. We should see ourselves as stewards of the community. It isn't our role to decide these matters without the community. We shouldn't quell conflict as quickly as possible, we need to hear from the others

Sandy: we need to turn this into a dialogue within the congregation

Donna: divisiveness on the board and between the board and the congregation

Rick: need to take a collective breath; need to learn to respect where everyone is coming from; these bitter feelings are not good for us or our community

Sandy: need to open this up for conversations

Harris: we know that no one wanted to hurt anyone but the hurt went deep
We need to move toward healing as individuals

Sandy: do we need to set up a zoom meeting for the congregation?

Harris would like it set up with non-board members and wants a team to help set it up;

Sandy motion to have Harris set up forum 2nd by Carlton

Carolyn is volunteering to be on with Harris; Donna would also like to be in group and Katie Sorokas

Vote: unanimous but Paul abstains—withdraws abstention later

UUA would be glad to be part of racial justice discussion

John: is there a way to rewrite the banner as a compromise

Brief summary: Harris put up banner without asking anyone else; to some people it is a political statement that was not the place for the congregation

Elon on speaker phone to Paul: church is a spiritual experience not for social action; he doesn't want the fellowship speaking for him; should the fellowship take a public position; Requesting the board take the banner down

Carrie: Board does not have the power to just remove the banner. It is up to the congregation to have a vote. That is the way our governance works.

Harris: put it up as part of her freedom of the pulpit

Discussion of racial justice and healing justice by Doug, Carolyn, Sandy, Betty

Betty: likes the idea of Harris's small groups with orderly discussions

Harris: would like discussion of our UU values and where we stand; We are at inflection point in our country

Paul: not a way both sides could be satisfied

Patricia: most religious institutions are political; deeper and more critical issue than just the banner

Elon: doesn't want to be told what to do and doesn't want fellowship to take political positions

Carrie: not a political issue but a moral issue

Marcella: opposite ends of spectrum from Elon; made them feel separate from the others due to the words that have been said

Deep conversation may help us find a completely different path that comes out of the discussion

Ron's summation: Black lives matter website similar views to UUA; personal sanctuary vs how we show up in the world; whiteness gives a privilege that doesn't exist for people of color; we are committed to action not just within ourselves but within the world to move to greater equality

Regular Board Meeting:

Minister's report: Sabbatical Nov 2nd to end of Nov

Suggestion is to get different UU ministers to fill in, need to pay them

Ron: motion in our approved budget we had some money for in that period
2nd by Betty

Harris to consult with and do research to get different people

Unanimous vote approve

Harris: concerned about money; auction safely with treats for holidays

Barb to help, and Sandy, Patricia, Mary

Patrick no action items

Paul: money 95-96% of pledges being paid; lots of money has been coming in;

PPP loan still working on turning it into a grant

Nothing from finance committee—didn't meet this month

Betty: nothing new on membership

John: nothing on sharex

RE council: not much going on right now still trying to develop a list with families with children; still not able to get list

Carolyn: service Sunday Healing Justice

Discussion afterwards led by Jim Smith

Denominational affairs: nothing much to report

Website: Ron L nothing much to report

Old Business:

Capital campaign to be discussed next time

Endowment meeting with board and an Accountant needed to be in meeting

Ron: change power church for a new program; power church has new program for fundraising: enhancing communication between board, finance, and congregation

UU Money discussion group: need to discuss with finance committee; Ron will discuss with finance committee

Portfolio for board members: each has defined area of responsibility or expertise

To be discussed in September

Nothing further to discuss except who is going to do the welcome:

September 6: Patrick

September 13 Carlton

September 20 Sandy

September 27 Paul

Motion to adjourn: Carlton

2nd Carrie

Unanimous vote

