

UUCJ Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, June 10, 2018

1. Opening and Chalice Lighting. A quorum was established. 2. Minutes from last regular Congregational Meeting were read. Jill Morgan moved that we approve the minutes; David Voisin seconded. Passed.

3. Nominations and New Officer Voting:

President Elect: Eric Saulters Wood

Secretary: Lisa Dunn

Trustee 1: David Morgan

Trustee 2: Brian Hefner

NOTE: Maureen McGuire will become President on July 1, 2018

L. Patricia Ice will become Past President on July 1, 2018

Natalie moved that we accept the entire slate of candidates. Seconded. Passed.

4. FLAME Award Announcement:

Justin presented the Fran Leber Award for Ministerial Excellence for service to the community to Patricia Ice.

5. Reports –

a. Treasurer's Report (Ranjan Batra)

Ranjan Batra presented and explained the Treasurer's Report.

Brian H. needs access to the church calendar to set the temperature and lower energy expenses. He has limited access to the internet and would like someone to print it out for him.

FICA taxes probably need to be paid for the childcare workers. Will be withheld for next worker, Elena Voisin.

West Street:

On target to cost about the projected 18K per year to maintain the property. Right now it's difficult to get insurance for the property because insurance companies consider it vacant. Insurance for an unoccupied building is beyond our means, so right now it is uninsured.

The building was damaged by vandals earlier this year, costing about \$3000. Brian H. thinks that energy costs will go up in winter, but Ranjan thinks that costs would not go down in summer, rather than not going up in winter. This is because of the moderate level of cooling required in the warehouse—which is poorly insulated—to prevent decay.

One item not noted on Assets is that \$50 was donated specifically for programs. Schwab account is not noted. It contains around \$100,000. Patricia and Lisa Kersen are signatories on the account. Joe Clayton suggests that we move the Bancorpsouth MM into a Schwab MM. Justin pointed out that we need that money on hand to pull from regularly to cover our expenses.

Ranjan will consider creating a finance committee to make such decisions.

We need to decide how much money we want to keep for running our church and how much to reserve for development.

Jill Morgan moved to accept the treasurer's report and Eric seconded.

#### b. Minister's Report (Justin McCreary)

Justin is a member of multiple boards in the community, including the Poor People's Campaign. He is usually involved in what is going on in the legislature.

He regrets that he wasn't in town to officiate at Fran Leber's funeral. He appreciates those who worked on it.

He is maxed out on what he can do as a half-time employee, but it is an honor to serve UUCJ and he loves his job.

Patricia noted that Justin is putting us on the map in MS.

Later in the year the church will be allowed to ordain him.

#### c. Membership Report (Eric Saulters-Wood)

Membership committee now includes Esther. Family nights are scheduled throughout the summer. Second Sundays will be a new UU course during lunch.

1. Update on UUCJ website & Weekly Email Blast: Please email the church if you're not getting them. Thomas is doing the website.

#### d. President's Report

1. UUA General Assembly in Kansas City, MO June 20-24, 2018. We have offered a \$500 reimbursement stipend to any member who is interested in going. We need to issue credentials to that person for voting: (<https://www.uua.org/ga/congregations/credentials>) and (<https://www.uua.org/ga>). Who is planning to go besides Justin McCreary?

Brian Hefner would be interested in going.

2. Request to assign responsibilities to someone to take care of things not covered by the bylaws such as electronic equipment (computer, projector, etc), keys, kitchen, etc.

Patricia wants us to be thinking about this.

3. Acquisition of Exell Water Bottling Co. in December 2017.

4. Request to have Capital Campaign for property improvement.

Patricia strongly urges us to have a separate fundraising campaign. She also mentioned that we could rent out property.

5. Loss of Musician Alan Black and need to find new Music Leader due to the importance of quality music in our services and need to hire a new musician.

6. Update on need for Child Care worker and Nursery Policy update. Kai will manage nursery through June and Elena Voisin will manage the nursery after that through December 2018. We will need to choose a back up person.

Eric has updated the policy handbook. Patricia will work on hiring a backup person.

7. 5th Saturday Clean-Up days (already happened the last Saturday in March).

Need to do it more frequently.

8. UUCJ Social Justice Book Circle: UUA Common Read "Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity and Power in Ministry" and "Daring Democracy: Igniting power, Meaning, and Connection for the America We Want" and call for more participation. Next Forum on July 1 will review that last sections of Centering. (Date may be incorrect.) The Joy of Sects will be read at a later date.

#### f. Ministry Team Reports

1. Exploring Our Beliefs (Worship & R.E.) (28 minutes) We need to find a permanent music person.

2. Welcoming Community: Welcoming cards are now available for visitors. Eric emails new people right away. Also, committee provides fruit and juice every Sunday. Eric has put together a new program format with all names spelled correctly.

3. Living our Values (Care Ring, Buildings and Grounds, etc.): Jody Gore reported that we have a list with phone numbers and addresses of members. People are getting better about telling her when things are happening with people. She would like volunteers to check on people when they aren't coming. Also to provide transportation to church for older members. With buildings

and grounds, they are doing basic maintenance.

4. Changing Our World (Social Activism and Outreach): David Voisin reported that many members have been involved in the poor people's campaign. Soap box Sunday is coming up and will go on at Fran Leber's request before her death.

5. Transition Task Force regarding North (N. State St.) and South (N. West St.) Campuses (Brian Hefner & Patricia Ice)

Brian (and others) met with architect (Stan Wagnon) and contractor (Socrates Garrett staff). We can rent either building and still be in compliance with our nonprofit tax status. JPD has given us crime statistics for both campus areas. Likelihood of calling a SPECIAL congregational meeting rather than awaiting the next regular congregational meeting to vote on property dispositions.

Brian reports that a group in Fondren would like to use the property as green space.

Patricia has crime statistics for both properties neighborhoods. The State Street area had more calls than the West Street area. She talked to Commander Keith Freeman of the police dept. who said that the State St. area has more crime. She will try to get narrower crime stats.

Brian recalls that this property has had one robbery after Katrina, one car break-in, and 3 other incidents in the past 15 years. The other property has had 2 or 3 break-ins since it has been in use.

Eric says we need to include the community in what we do.

The transition team is actively looking for options and would like members to do the same. Bring to our attention property you see on the market. We may stay here, we may move to West st. or we may have a third option to move somewhere else.

State St.

43K to put up composite siding and doors on State.

18K to make the sanctuary include the kitchen other spaces.

225 to build a new kitchen and bathrooms where the garden is.

5K to make RE building match

RE building needs to be rewired (?\$) and have heating cooling 14-17k.

West St:

20K for kitchen

7k for flooring

7k for ceiling

18k for new walls

increase size of bathroom doors

No numbers for outside because there are so many choices.

The board will talk about options to use the building.

6. Old Business Not Previously Discussed

7. New Business: Eric is starting a new CUUPS chapter.

8. Announcements: Next board meeting is July 1 with new and old board members.

9. Next Congregational Meeting will be decided at the next board meeting. Need to have a special meeting to decide on the decision to move.

10. Closing and Extinguishing the Chalice

3:21 pm adjourned.