

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING OCTOBER 17, 2023

ATTENDANCE:

President: Gwen Pevey
President-Elect: Jill Morgan
Treasurer: Lisa Dunn
Secretary: Dianna Albertson
Quorum reached

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Snowdancer

AGENDA

Chalice Lighting and Check-in
Approve Sept. Board Minutes
Treasurer's Report
\$9000 Agreement with GS4GND
Update on Garden Funds
Update on Church Rental Agreement
Update on Camera Added to Outside of Building
Update on Taylor's Background Check
Update on Schwab Account
Update on Key Policy
Update on Monitoring Electric Usage (*Electric Bill \$500*)
Clean Out Warehouse - Give-Away Day
Ministry Council Report
Update on Living Legacy
Update on the UUA Membership Count
Update on Masks and Filters
Update on Pledge Drive Announcements and Emails
Church Parking for Games
Faithify Extension and Minister Contract Negotiation
Discuss Board Policy and Procedures for Board Member Removal
Other Business
Extinguish Chalice

CHALICE LIGHTING AND CHECK-IN

Chalice lit at 6:35 pm.
Check-in.

APPROVE SEPT BOARD MEMBERS

Motive to approve by Gwen.
Seconded by Jill.
All approved.

Treasurer's Report

Lisa will have a report and provide it in GroupMe.

See attachment

\$9000 Agreement with GS4GND

The money was deposited before January and the board agreed to send the money back.

Gwen will work on contacting the appropriate person to resolve this issue.

Update on Garden Funds

No update at this time. Hoses, timer, valves and other items have been purchased and receipts have been sent to Lisa.

Update on Church Rental Agreement

Eric will provide an update at the next board meeting.

Update on Camera Added to Outside of Building

Eric will provide an update at the next board meeting.

Update on Taylor's Background Check

The board discussed that we haven't ever needed to file for tax exempt status.

Gwen will check the UUA website for a recommended background check company.

Update on Schwab Account

Jill has the app for Schwab.

Jill and Gwen will email the quarterly reports to Lisa.

Update on Key Policy

Eric will provide an update at the next board meeting.

Update on Monitoring Electric Usage (*Electric Bill \$500*)

Gwen turned off everything possible in the warehouse and the freezer was unplugged.

Clean Out Warehouse - Give Away Day

Gwen and Esther selected Nov 11 Saturday for the give-away.

They will contact Goodwill or AM Veterans to donate items.

Ministry Council Report

Volunteers are needed for services.

Someone is needed to work the video equipment for Zoom.

See Attachment

Update on Living Legacy

The group is coming to the church this Friday and will provide food and play music.

4 or 5 members are needed to join the group for the evening.
Snowdancer needs help with setup and Esther has volunteered to help.

Update on the UUA Membership Count

Nothing to do at this time.

Update on Masks and Filters

Masks have been placed at the entrance for people to use.
Purchasing filters are on hold due to cost.

Update on Pledge Drive Announcements and Emails

Messaging the congregation will start Sunday, Oct. 29 through Thanksgiving;
membership renewal is a requirement and the treasurer needs this information for the
budget report.
The board decided to not mail brochures due to the cost and will send an email instead.

Church Parking for Games

The board discussed having a "Free Parking Sign" to avoid people charging for parking
at the church but decided the sign might be stolen and it would be a waste of money.

Faithify Extension and Minister Contract Negotiation

The campaign was extended for a week due to problems with processing donations for
20 days.
Another campaign will be launched for a smaller amount at another time.

Discuss Board Policy and Procedures for Board Member Removal

Dianna will draft a proposal for Policy and Procedures for the removal of a board
member.

Other Business

1. Gwen will contact Trustee Amy Craig about availability for board meetings due to her
schedule changes.
2. Rev Love wanted to do edits to the contract to include more UUA language. The
ministry team needs to approve the changes before presenting it to the board.
3. Gwen will invite Lea and Morris from FRtF to discuss their organization at the
December board meeting.
4. At the next board meeting, an agenda item is to be added into the Ministry Council
bylaws pertaining to updates/comments.

Extinguish Chalice

Check-out and chalice extinguished at 8:01 pm
Budget versus Actual Income and Expenses

**Unitarian Universalist Church of Jackson
Balance Sheet
As of September 2023**

Assets

Current Assets

Bank Accounts

Charles Schwab Account	242,554.27
Cadence Checking - Operating Account	15,093.32
Cadence Checking - Escrow Account	<u>19,000.00</u>

276,647.59

Other Current Assets

Deposits Income	2,256.00
Funds Awaiting Deposit	<u>1,180.00</u>

3,436.00

Total Current Assets

Other Assets

Change in Value of Investments	<u>(23,096.89)</u>
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(23,096.89)

Total Other Assets

Total Assets

256,986.70

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Payroll Liability	197.56
Escrow - N State Street Lease/Purchase	19,000.00
Deposits Expenses	<u>793.50</u>

19,991.06

Total Current Liabilities

Total Liabilities

19,991.06

Funds

General Fund	88,708.87
Building Fund	33,394.75
Memorial Fund	1,743.10
Special Fundraising	103,907.80
Community Garden Fund	9,241.12
Pass-Through Donations	<u>0.00</u>

Total Funds

236,995.64

Total Liabilities and Funds

256,986.70

Charles Schwab Account Asset Composition	Ending Balance at 6/30/23	Interest and Dividend Income	Unrealized Gain (Loss)	Ending Balance at 9/30/23
Bank Sweep/Cash	10,027.97	11.36	0.00	10,039.33
Equities	196,869.22	0.00	(12,006.92)	184,862.30
Equity Funds	43,799.14	0.00	(2,407.92)	41,391.22
Exchange Traded Funds	6,469.01	23.45	(231.04)	6,261.42
Total Account Value	<u>257,165.34</u>	<u>34.81</u>	<u>(14,645.88)</u>	<u>242,554.27</u>

Unitarian Universalist Church of Jackson
 Budget versus Actual Income and Expenses
 January through September 2023

	Total Actual	Budget	Over (Under) Budget
General Fund			
Income			
1-01 Pledges	20,870.00	27,600.00	(6,730.00)
1-02 General Donations	2,428.05	1,800.00	628.05
1-04 General Fundraising Income	77.39	0.00	77.39
1-05 West St Rentals	0.00	0.00	0.00
	23,375.44	29,400.00	(6,024.56)
Administration			
1-07 Interest & Investment Income	104.18		104.18
Administration Total:	104.18	0.00	104.18
Total Income	23,479.62	29,400.00	(5,920.38)
Expense			
Administration			
1-11 Board Expenses	968.55	808.00	160.55
1-12 Office Supplies	138.70	250.00	(111.30)
1-13 Storage Expenses	729.00	972.00	(243.00)
1-14 General Fundraising Expenses	0.00	100.00	(100.00)
1-15 Service Charges	548.49	1,000.00	(451.51)
Administration Total:	2,384.74	3,130.00	(745.26)
Affiliation			
1-21 UUA Fair Share Expenses	3,911.00	3,800.00	111.00
Affiliation Total:	3,911.00	3,800.00	111.00
Building and Grounds: Maintenance & Operations			
1-31 West St Utilities & Communications Expense	15,481.51	15,000.00	481.51
1-32 West St Repairs and Maintenance	1,549.65	1,500.00	49.65
1-33 West St Janitorial Services	3,032.33	3,972.00	(939.67)
1-33 West St Landscaping Service Expense	1,250.00	2,500.00	(1,250.00)
1-34 West St Insurance	6,535.00	5,000.00	1,535.00
Building and Grounds: Maintenance & Operations Total:	27,848.49	27,972.00	(123.51)
Minister			
1-41 Minister's Salary	0.00	0.00	0.00
1-42 Minister's Housing	0.00	0.00	0.00
1-43 Minister's Benefits	882.00	0.00	882.00
1-44 Minister's Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Minister Total:	882.00	0.00	882.00
Support Staff			
1-51 Support Staff Salaries	679.90	1,352.00	(672.10)
1-52 Payroll Tax Expense	13.92	195.30	(181.38)
Support Staff Total:	693.82	1,547.30	(853.48)
Welcoming Community			
1-61 Welcoming Community Expenses	562.33	500.00	62.33
Welcoming Community Total:	562.33	500.00	62.33

	Total Actual	Budget	Over (Under) Budget
Exploring Our Beliefs			
1-71 Guest Minister/Speaker Fees	4,765.76	10,980.00	(6,214.24)
1-72 Musician and Performer Fees	1,125.00	1,500.00	(375.00)
1-73 Sound and Video Equipment	146.44	500.00	(353.56)
1-74 Music Licenses	317.00	375.00	(58.00)
1-75 Worship Materials	881.73	1,800.00	(918.27)
1-76 RE Supplies	290.97	2,500.00	(2,209.03)
1-77 Flower Communion and Other Special Events	493.65	800.00	(306.35)
Exploring Our Beliefs Total:	8,020.55	18,455.00	(10,434.45)
Living Our Values			
1-81 Living Our Values Expenses	159.94	500.00	(340.06)
Living Our Values Total:	159.94	500.00	(340.06)
Changing Our World			
1-91 Changing Our World Expenses	0.00	500.00	(500.00)
Changing Our World Total:	0.00	500.00	(500.00)
Total Expenses	44,462.87	56,404.30	(11,941.43)
Total General Fund Net Income (Loss)	(20,983.25)	(27,004.30)	(6,021.05)
Building Fund			
Income			
Buildings and Grounds: Renovations			
2-01 Building the Future Income	4,295.00	0.00	4,295.00
2-02 State St Lease Purchase	15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00
2-03 Insurance Proceeds - N State St Property	25,761.30	0.00	25,761.30
Total Income:	45,056.30	0.00	45,056.30
Expense			
Buildings and Grounds: Renovations			
2-11 Building the Future Expenses	10,165.34	0.00	10,165.34
2-12 State Street Expenses	17,000.00	0.00	17,000.00
Total Expenses:	27,165.34	0.00	27,165.34
Total Building Fund Net Income (Loss)	17,890.96	0.00	(17,890.96)
Memorial Fund			
Income			
3-01 Memorial Fund Income	0.00	0.00	0.00
Expense			
3-11 Memorial Fund Expenses	151.20	0.00	151.20
Total Memorial Fund Net Income (Loss)	(151.20)	0.00	(151.20)

	Total Actual	Budget	Over (Under) Budget
Special Fundraising Fund			
Income			
4-01 Special Fundraising Income	0.00	0.00	0.00
Expense			
4-11 Special Fundraising Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Special Fundraising Fund Net Income (Loss)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Community Garden Fund			
Income			
7-01 Community Garden Donations	4,750.00	0.00	4,750.00
7-02 Community Garden Grants	9,000.00	0.00	9,000.00
Total Income:	13,750.00	0.00	13,750.00
Expense			
7-11 Garden Materials	4,508.88	0.00	4,508.88
Total Expenses:	4,508.88	0.00	4,508.88
Total Community Garden Fund Net Income (Loss)	9,241.12	0.00	9,241.12
Pass Through Donations			
5-01 Pass Through Donations Income	170.00	0.00	170.00
5-11 Pass Through Donations Expense	170.00	0.00	170.00
Total Income:	0.00	0.00	0.00

UUJXN Ministry Council Meetings

Our Standardized Agenda:

- Chalice Lighting
- Check In
- Agenda Approval and Discussion
[Standard Items for Agenda] **
Services and Programs
Membership
Membership Engagement
Community Outreach
Social Justice
- Tabled Items/New Business for next meeting
- Chalice Extinguishing

**

Services and Programs	Sunday Morning Activities (worship, religious exploration); affiliated groups; classes/worships (i.e., Vespers)
Membership	Greet guests, provide hospitality, coordinate new member/friend process.
Membership Engagement	Plan social functions, member remembrances, caring for members/friends in need.
Community Outreach	Engage our neighboring community.
Social Justice	Promote social justice, organize social action events for members/friends.

November 11, 2023 9 AM -

Attendees:

Note Taker: TBD

Lead for the Month: TBD and Snowdancer

- Chalice Lighting:
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- Check-In
- Agenda Approval
 - Services and Programs
 - Service update and support needed.
 - Stone Soup
 - Remaining Services in 2023
 - AV Team needs
 - Opening and closing information in flowchart / policy
 - RE update
 - Hanging bulletin boards.
 - Other Service and program topics
 - Membership
 - Discussion: share ideas on how visitor information should be used.
 - Update on talking with Douglas on how he would like to get visitor info. Can he get the info himself when he attends service? When

- he is absent, can we add instructions to the policy information for service volunteers?
 - How do we get visitor information into the system?
 - How are we doing at welcoming visitors? Do we have information available for volunteers to be welcomers?
 -
 - Other membership topics.
 - Membership Engagement
 - Discussion: Followup on actions to check in on members:
 - Eric is willing to do reach outs to checkin and help members find information to address personal issues.
 - Care Ring - Eric was to take the lead. What help is needed?
 - Other membership engagement topics.
 - Community Outreach
 - Garden club update.
 - Update on opening the warehouse to neighbors to clean out items stored and not needed.
 - Followup discussion on ideas for connecting with the neighborhood:
 - Distributing flyers in local places.
 - Update on asking Zach for his ideas on how to share info on the church in the neighborhood
 - Updating brochure to share at Stone Soup Sunday.
 - Upcoming Local events we can attend.
 - Social Justice
 - Followup on idea to include social justice topic in upcoming services.
 - social justice topics / events to include in Sunday messages.
 - Upcoming events we can support
 - Actions for follow
 -
 - Items for next meeting:
- Chalice Extinguishing

October 14, 2023 9 AM -

Attendees: Gwen, Snowdancer, Jill, Sue, Eric, Stacy

Note Taker: Jill

Lead for the Month: Jill and Snowdancer

- Chalice Lighting:
 - Our Unitarian heritage bids us light our chalice...
 - We gather in community to celebrate a heritage of freedom, reason, and tolerance.
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 - Our Universalist heritage bids us light our chalice...
 - We gather in community to celebrate a heritage of faith, hope, and love.
 - Let us bring this Unitarian Universalist heritage into our world and our lives today.
- Check-In
- Agenda Approval
 - Services and Programs
 - Service update and support needed.
 - Request to UU email from board to provide access to AV team to sanctuary and office.

- Add opening and closing the door to service flowchart.
 - Print opening and closing policy and hand out - Eric
 - RE update
 - Found tabletop activities related to Soul Matters lessons and have them available to have in large room for kids to choose.
 - Not sure who is scheduled each Sunday for the small children. There are times there are two volunteers needed, for younger and older children.
 - In RE group are mostly the parents Taylor, Beth, Esther and Stacy. Would be helpful to have volunteers without children and men.
 - Stacy to put a message out to find a lead in her absence. Taylor volunteered. Gwen to check to be sure.
 - Drop in activities designed to be flexible with variation in attendance and ability to ask someone to volunteer.
 - Putting stuff out for adults. Asking for help to hang bulletin boards. Eric to figure out a way to temporarily install pending sanctuary renovations.
 - Other Service and program topics
- Membership
 - Discussion: share ideas on how visitor information should be used.
 - Sue has been picking up the visitor information with a plan to add to a spreadsheet and send to Douglas to add to the email list.
 - Stacy said the info needs to be in flockbase.
 - Sue will talk with Douglas to find out how he would like to get the info. Can he get the info himself when he attends service? When he is absent, can we add instructions to the policy information for service volunteers?
 - Stacy - we eventually need to find a way to get visitor information into the "system".
 - There are files with welcome packages in the office. Need to put materials in a basket for service volunteer - visitor welcoming volunteer / greeter.
 - Need to add visitor greeter / welcomer to Sunday flowchart / instructions.
 - Stacy can try and find visitor info this Sunday and add to a basket.
 - Eric to add to Sunday flowchart.
 - Other membership topics.
- Membership Engagement
 - Discussion: without a care committee, how should we checkin on members?
 - Eric is willing to do reach outs to checkin and help members find information to address personal issues.
 - Care Ring - we have a need to send cards to people. Eric will lead that. Recruit another team member.
 - Other membership engagement topics.
- Community Outreach
 - Garden club update.
 - Sprinkler system is installed.
 - Okra harvest is gorgeous!

- Able to distribute food to people. Neighbors volunteered to cook for free.
 - Expressed interest in the church.
 - Update on opening the warehouse to neighbors to clean out items stored and not needed.
 - Esther and Gwen to discuss
 - Followup discussion on ideas for connecting with the neighborhood:
 - Outdoor food event
 - Nextdoor / social media - we are considered a business on nextdoor. Everything is a paid advertisement. Any member of our church can plug the church on nextdoor.
 - Connections via Fondren and Midtown events
 - Flyers / promotional materials - We have flyers with QR codes, goes to our core principles and values. Eric suggest dropping off at local coffee shops. Eric would like to revamp the brochure. It still has Jody and Paul in the congregational picture. Stone Soup might be the best opportunity.
 - Materials are located by the hymnals. Business cards are by the fridge. Centralize the materials.
 - Gwen suggested attaching flyers to light poles.
 - Ministry team to pick up flyers and drop off in local places. Make an announcement to members of the flyers available and if they can take them to distribute.
 - Local events - Pride events, days of visibility events, etc. Having a table at these events.
 - Asking Zach for suggestions. Gwen will ask Zach for his ideas on how to share info on the church in the neighborhood.
- Social Justice
 - Followup on idea to include social justice topic in upcoming services.
 - UUA has alot of materials available.
 - Could include social justice topics / events on the bulletin board.
 - Example: we do not have events planned for key dates (Emmit Till). Questions from others - what are we doing in response to.....water crisis, abortion clinic, etc.
 - Need someone to lead? Keep social topics on top of mind. Could include in services.
 - Would be nice to mention crisis in Israel, Gaza at service. It is a humanitarian crisis.
 - Share statement from UUA president at service tomorrow.
 - Other social justice topics
- Actions for followup:
 - Request to UU email from board to provide access to AV team to sanctuary and office. - Jill
 - Add opening and closing the door to service flowchart.- Eric
 - Print opening and closing policy and hand out - Eric
 - Stacy to put a message out to find a lead in her absence. Taylor volunteered. Gwen to check to be sure.
 - Putting stuff out for adults. Asking for help to hang bulletin boards. Eric to figure out a way to temporarily install pending sanctuary renovations.
 - Sue will talk with Douglas to find out how he would like to get the info.
 - Stacy can try and find visitor info this Sunday and add to a basket.

- Eric to add visitor greeter to Sunday flowchart.
- Esther and Gwen to discuss opening warehouse to community to distribute items.
- Ministry team to pick up flyers and drop off in local places. Make an announcement to members of the flyers available and if they can take them to distribute
- Gwen will ask Zach for his ideas on how to share info on the church in the neighborhood
- Eric is willing to do reach outs to checkin and help members find information to address personal issues.
- Care Ring - we have a need to send cards to people. Eric will lead that. Recruit another team member
- Share statement from UUA president at service tomorrow. - Snowdancer
- Items for next meeting:
 - Chalice Extinguishing

May we remember that we never walk out into the world alone.

We stand on the shoulders of brave and generous ones who have gone before.

We walk beside companions, ready to catch us when we fall.

We hold memories of dear ones in our hearts who keep us connected to our center.

May we make this our most important work:

To remember that who we are does not end at the edges of our own skin.

September 9, 2023 9 AM -

Attendees: Lisa, Gwen, Stacy, Sue, Snowdancer, Jill

Note Taker: Jill

Lead for the Month: Jill and Snowdancer

- Chalice Lighting: Our Welcome to Share
 - We light this chalice;
our welcome to share,
and our communion to declare.
 - May this flame
shine bright and afar
to serve as our community's lodestar.
 - All are welcome from everywhere.
- Check In
- Agenda Approval
 - Services and Programs
 - Discussed need to send out the service spreadsheet and identify volunteers for worship attendant, piano (as needed), and AV support.
 - Snowdancer will share the service spreadsheet with the Ministry council with a goal of identifying volunteers for the next couple of months.
 - Discussed that primary AV need is zoom. Livestreaming and posting recorded services is beneficial, but not a necessity.
 - RE is currently covered by Stacy, Beth, Esther and Taylor. There is a signup sheet. Soul matters materials are available and other volunteers would be helpful as this team also covers childcare.
 - Suggestion was made to make announcement during service of need for worship associates and RE volunteers.

- There is an immediate need to identify the AV person for the Sept 17 services. Snowdancer and Eric will lead the service, including music and worship associate.
 - Membership
 - Stacy is available to help anyone interested through the membership process.
 - Gwen will check with the two individuals who expressed interest earlier this year to ensure they have all the information they need. Stacy has provided information on membership.
 - Suggest was made to include information on membership at every service. This includes sharing the link to info in the zoom chat and mention to the congregation.
 - A discussion on what is done with visitor information was held. Sue has been gathering the visitor sign-in sheets and trying to enter their information in the online visitor book so they can be included in the weekly email. But, she has not been able to get that to work.
 - There is not a plan on what to do with visitor information beyond adding them to the mailing list.
 - This topic was tabled and will be discussed at the October meeting. Everyone was asked to think about what should be done with the visitor information.
 - Membership Engagement
 - Individuals have reached out to members who have not been coming to church lately. Jill checked in with Adrienne. Stacy mentioned Adrienne has develop thematic packets for the month. Sue ran into Corey Melton and he has been meaning to come back. Stacy has run into Maddie. Snowdancer reported that Judy has received positive news on her cancer recovery. She has had surgery and has finished chemo.
 - With no care committee team, each Ministry team member was asked continue reaching out to those who have not been to church recently.
 - Community Outreach
 - Gwen reported that the garden club activity is slow right now. With the heat, just keeping the garden watered was the priority. Esther has been doing much of the work lately including giving out produce to the community.
 - Zach is a neighbor who has been involved with the garden and has been coming to church regularly. We need to all introduce ourselves to Zach. Zach has also been tithing and might be interested in membership.
 - We discussed ways to open up the church to the community a bit. Gwen suggested something like a crawfish boil or other seasonal outdoor food activity.
 - Stacy did find the church has a Nextdoor account. This could be used to share service information.
 - We also discussed making connections through Fondren and Midtown events.
 - Gwen mentioned handing out flyers to neighbors about our church. Eric may have some promotional material already available and Gwen will check with Eric.
 - Jill suggested someone ask Zach for ideas on connecting with the community.
 - Social Justice

- Social justice activity is fairly low at the moment
- Jill is signing up for League of Women Voters to become more knowledgeable of upcoming legislative issues.
- Stacy mentioned that we could have a social justice minute during each service
- Jill mentioned that Snowdance has some room in the upcoming services schedule if someone wanted to talk on a specific social justice topic.
- Stacy asked about the resilience information and Gwen noted that is on the next board meeting to discuss on Sept. 19.
- Tabled Items/New Business for next meeting
 - What to do with visitor information
- Chalice Extinguishing
 - We are the ones we have been waiting for.*
 - We are not perfect, but we are perfectly fitted for this day.
 - We are not without fault,
 - but we can be honest to face our past as we chart a new future.
 - We are the ones we have been waiting for.
 - May we be bold and courageous to chart that new future
 - May we have faith in a future that is not known
 - We are the ones we have been waiting for.*

August 12, 2023 9 AM - 10:15 AM

Attendees: Eric, Lisa, Jill, Gwen, Sue, Snowdancer, Stacy

Notes:

Lead for the Month: Snowdancer

Lead for September: Jill Morgan

Chalice Lighting

May the light we now kindle
 Inspire us to use our powers
 To heal and not to harm,
 To help and not to hinder,
 To bless and not to curse,
 To serve you, Spirit of Freedom.
 [A Passover Haggadah]

Check In

Agenda Approval

1. Did I forget any names from the last meeting? I added them late.
2. Agreement to suspend our usual format to facilitate actions in the future and comments
 - a. Roundtable using Sociocratic Method
 - i. Solidify some actions for the future
3. A quick checkin on our standard format for reporting out
4. Other?

NOTE: After the agenda was approved, we moved into a brainstorming session on where we are now and where we would like to go. There were no official notes taken during this session.

It was agreed that any planning, etc., for the upcoming month will be conducted on our GroupMe page. If a special meeting is necessary, it will be called.

We will pick up next month with our president elect (Jill Morgan) as co-chair and Snowdancer as co-chair until such time we have an official minister of the church.

These running minutes will continue so that we have a record of what was accomplished and discussed.

Jill Morgan will post on GroupMe both documents she and Snowdancer have been working with. Those documents will become part of these working minutes.

Suspended Actions for this Meeting:
Discussion of Agenda Items



Sunday Morning Services



Religious Exploration



Outreach



Inreach



Social Justice Issues



Community Garden]

Tabled Items/New Business for next meeting

Chalice Extinguishing

[written by Black Elk]

Hear me, four quarters of the world. / A relative I am! / Give me the strength to walk the soft earth. Give me the eyes to see and the strength to understand. / Look upon these faces of children without number, / That they may face the winds and walk the good road to the day of quiet. / This is my prayer, hear me.

July 8, 2023 9am to 10am

Attendees: Snowdancer, Jill, Lisa, Katie, Sue, Gwen,

Notes: Snowdancer

Lead for the Month: Snowdancer

Lead for August: TBD

Chalice Lighting

- May the light from this flame be a beacon of our faith, in the days that grow dark and dreary. May the light from this flame be warmth to our spirits, during nights of restless searching. May the light from this flame be a celebration of the truth, meaning and joy we find within these walls and in our dreams.
- The light that we now kindle is a reminder of those who gave their lives for the freedom we cherish. May we never allow the light to falter, not in our chalice, nor in our hearts.

Check In

Agenda Approval

- Sunday Morning Services
 - Upcoming Scheduling – July to December.
 - Rev Love brief update –
 - Interim-offer her as many Sundays as we can for now.
 - July 23 – fully make the congregation aware of what we are doing.
 - Only covers one year. How do we cover a future year?
 - 9 Sunday per church, however we will get 18 actual services (via zoom).
 - UUJXN is contract admin.
- Religious Exploration
 - Soul Matters subscription needs to be renewed for the new calendar year starting in September. The money for such is already built into the budget.
 - Vespers will keep using the Soul Matters materials, like Adult RE.
 - Children's RE – Esther is picking up slack.
 -
- Outreach
 - Gulf South-MS Hub of Green New Deal
 - Through hub a lot of training ongoing.

- Coalition of Organizations – Gulf Centered.
 - 1 ½ yrs Katie has worked with them.
 - Katie – policy table, co-lead. Compiled some of the work of this group. Education and information work.
 - Maddie – co-lead communications.
 - Group will work on social justice issues, among others. Being a community resource.
 - Deeply rooted in environmentalism. (i.e. Pearl River area).
 - Gwen – action response team work.
 - Need another cong mtg about what that looks like within the church.
 - Ongoing with distribution with greens in the garden. Soon to invited people to come to us for distribution.
 -
- Inreach
 - Childcare coverage for summer and beyond. Taylor applied for the childcare position. Board was working on this. Waiting on background check. Personnel Comm has a mtg scheduled. Background check company (Shephards) – we have paid basic fees/there is a fee for each check that is made.
 - Website updates.
 - Sue is now trained to work on the website.
 - David: Stacy has been the main lead for years. Wednesday mtg-how to session. /dianna to take over calendar listings/cong mtg minutes/board minutes. Sue to take over Service info every month.
 - Training was recorded so can be shared.
 - Esther sent flowers for Alicia’s mother passing.
 - FLAME – outreach . . .
- Social Justice Issues.
 - Resilience to Restoration. If any questions, ask Katie.
 - Spectrum – One of two centers in the state that does work in the trans community.
 - Need to talk about the situation with Spectrum. (Gwen) – gender expression is a part of our religious freedom. Ppl could join the church and claim it is a part of our religious freedom and get care.
 -
 - Open Arms. They are open-they are just following the law. Do a lot of good work with gender non-conforming in the city.
 - State law passed that limits access. Age limit is 18 – illegal.
 -
- Community Garden
 -

Tabled Items/New Business for next meeting

□

Chalice Extinguishing

June 10, 2023 9am to 10am

Attendees: Snowdancer, Bob, Stacy, Eric, Katie, Sue, Lisa, Adrienne, Gwen, David

Notes: Adrienne [Entries from Snowdancer are in purple]

Lead for the Month: Snowdancer

Lead for July: OPEN

Chalice Lighting

A Risk-Filled Invitation, Rev. Margo Rinehart

As we light our chalice, may our breathing pause
as we notice the slight moment when light delicately flutters
before becoming the full flame.

May this moment of possibility be a risk filled invitation
to pour ourselves into the heat of curiosity, mischief, celebration and delight.

Check In

Agenda Approval

- Sunday Morning Services
 - Upcoming Scheduling – July to December. Snowdancer is working on this. Rev Love's schedule is still uncertain. Holding off on local scheduling until we see where she can be worked in.
 - Rev Love brief update – more to follow at Cong Mtg June 11. Fargo will not renew her contract as of July 1, 2023. Total amount of contract from all congregations in MS ~50k. Survey results favor having a minister. We also need to consider the finances of the congregation.
- Religious Exploration
 - Raise child care from \$13/hr to \$15/hr (Adrienne). Increase hourly fee to music director to \$15 too. Okay. This will be passed along to the Board for final approval.
 - Stacy recommended a curriculum for Children RE. She has been very busy with work. RE packet cost \$40. The content is mainly the kids making stuff with materials that the church already has. Esther has a sign-up sheet. People have been signing up. Stacy bought the packet.
 - Soul Matters subscription needs to be renewed for the new calendar year starting in September. The money for such is already built into the budget.
 - Vespers will keep using the Soul Matters materials, like Adult RE.
- Outreach
 - Drag potluck on Friday evening at the church. Perfect Potluck will be circulated. Family friendly creative attire.
 - Maddy and Lonny volunteer to do a UU Youth table at Fondren Live
- Inreach
 - Childcare coverage for summer and beyond. Taylor applied for the childcare position.
 - Need to provide childcare for the congregation meeting.
 - Judy Williams. Finished final cancer treatment earlier this month, will have chemo and radiation. Snowdancer is keeping in touch with her.
 - Website updates. Will it be helpful if Dianna helps with updating the calendar since Stacy is so busy now? The person needs to gather relevant information from the host. Gwen volunteers.
- Social Justice Issues..
 - Resilience to Restoration. Katie will report using groupme.
- Community Garden

- o Esther is watering now. We harvest regularly: greens, tomatoes, cucumbers, and eggplants. Will plant some squash. One pallet bed, two metal beds. Will construct another pallet bed. Irrigation: want to make the well working.

Tabled Items/New Business for next meeting

None to carry forth . . .

Chalice Extinguishing

Only here for a minute..., Inspired by the words of Brian Doyle

The religious writer Brian Doyle said this:

“We’re only here for a minute. We’re here for a little window. And to use that time to catch and share shards of light and laughter and grace seems to me the great story.”

May this tale of grace and delight be the one we tell with our lives.

Amen and Blessed Be

May 13, 2023 9am to 10am

Attendees: Snowdancer, Adrienne, Lisa

Notes: Adrienne [Entries from Snowdancer are in purple]

Lead for the Month: Snowdancer

Lead for June: OPEN

Agenda

Chalice Lighting:

Beltane Garden

Linda Haggerstone

May morning sun blesses the day

While I walk amongst the garden blooms

Admiring the Mother's handiwork

Woven on dear nature's loom...

Check In

Leader for next month:

Agenda Approval

- Sunday Morning Services
 - o **Upcoming Schedule:** Snowdancer went over the May, June, July schedule. Rev Love July schedule uncertain. July has two openings, Later months not scheduled yet. Adrienne will check with Gwen whether she and Taylor are available for a new member ceremony on May 21.
 - o **Rev Love’s Commitment to UUJXN and Shared Ministry Options.** Talks among Fargo, Tupelo and UUCJ for a package for Rev Love. We would like to schedule a time when Rev. Love can talk with the whole congregation.
 - o **Snowdancer’s summer planned vacations and absences.** Leaving May 31, back June 8 personal vacation, June 16 to July 9 General Assembly, July 26 to Aug 2 personal vacation. Need persons to cover services and Vespers, ask the whole Ministry Council group and the Vespers group..
 - o **Replace “10:30am coffee hour” with “the sanctuary will open at 10:30am”..** OKay,
 - o **Retire the coffee making sign-up sheet.** OKay.
- Religious Exploration (no report)
 - o Children

- Adults
- Outreach
 - What is outreach? [Consensus was, for outreach, inreach, and social justice- there is not a need at present to define these areas.]
- Inreach
 - What is inreach?
- Social Justice Issues
 - How do we define social justice issues?
 - What's hot and what's not?
- Community Garden
 - No report.

Discussion of Agenda Items

Tabled Items/New Business for next meeting

1. Designing and conducting a survey of the congregation to help define: Outreach/Inreach/Social Justice Issues. Survey to be discussed at our June meeting. Possible that this is not necessary. [Snowdancer: we might get a lot of what people think we "need," and we only have four people who will actually take on the work]

NOTE: We did not have enough people to cover most areas of agenda other than to share thoughts on various topics.

Chalice Extinguishing:

The Blessing of Creativity, Rev. Barbara Wells

May your senses awake to the creative spark that lives in you.

May you walk in beauty and seek to create beauty wherever you go...

April 8, 2023 9am to 10am

Attendees: Sue, Adrienne, Katie, Snowdancer, Eric, Stacy

Notes: Snowdancer, Adrienne

Lead for this Month: Adrienne

Agenda

1. Chalice Lighting
 - Each morning we must hold out the chalice of our being to receive, to carry, and give back – Dag Hammarskjold
2. Check In
3. Leader for next meeting: Snowdancer
4. Agenda Approval
 - [Standard Areas to Cover:
 - Sunday Morning Services
 - Children's RE
 - Outreach/Inreach
 - Social Justice Issues
 - Community Garden]
5. Discussion of Agenda Items
- A. Sunday service admin process:
 - a. Service sign-up sheet printing (David printed some sign-up sheets. Sue will print some and need some ink. Can use church printer. A printer with wifi would work better.)

b. Identify person(s) to open sanctuary for Sunday service. The service coordinator needs to contact the Operations group. Prefer to determine the Wednesday before the Service. Who had keys: board members, Eric, David, Esther. Katie can open at least once a month.

c. Katie's keys are locked in the office. Eric will retrieve them.

B. Sunday service schedule:

a. Snowdancer: book through May. When Rev. Love comes, people can go out for lunch with her. Earth Day: some outdoor stuff. May: Rev Love on Mother's Day in-person and a zoom service **[NOTE: did not occur]**. A Dancer service scheduled for this summer.

b. The Monthly Theme for April is resistance, for May is creativity, for June is delight.

c. June 4 or 11 Pride service (Eric)

d. Easter service: musicians are all lineup. Need readers: Katie and Eric. Shall we hold service in the South Dome because of the temperature? Can turn on the heat early. Egg hunt may not be feasible because of the rain.

C. Children RE

a. Stacy: have 200 eggs, chocolates, and toys for Easter service and later services. Also planned crafts, e.g. decorating eggs on the back tables, need 3 tables. Will pick up some plastic table clothes or use those the church already has. Can spread the bales for hiding eggs for egg hunt.

b. Snowdancer: 1 table for flowers, 2 for food, 3 for children RE. Katie will pick up 4 tables. So we will have 8 tables altogether.

c. Ongoing RE: April 23 and 30 multi-generational events. Dance service can be multi-generational. Got more books, and Monthly Theme has children's stories. Stacy: will discuss Esther to set up classes for older kids.

D. Outreach/inreach

a. Judy Williams. Colon cancer under treatment. Have asked for a ride to services. Can announce this after a service. Stacy will help coordinate her ride. Potential volunteers: Sue, Eric, Katie.

b. Bill Chandler. Hospitalized due to immobility, diagnosed with pneumonia and COVID, now at home

c. Adrienne to get each a card for people to sign.

E. Social justice

a. Tornado relief. Adrienne will sort out clothes in the warehouse and donate them to Legacy Village next Saturday.

b. Gulf South has a rapid response team. Katie will take a box truck up; diapers, toys.

F. Community garden

a. New volunteer Jess helps with seed sprouting and will donate some sprouted seeds.

6. Tabled Items/New Business for next meeting:

a) Rev. Love schedule from June to Dec. Plan to use UU fund raising mechanism to hire Rev. Love as full time with Tupelo. Jill and Snowdancer are working with Rev Love and Tupelo. Rev. Love can do zoom counseling. Can offer pastoral counseling to members.

7. Chalice Extinguishing

March 11, 2023 9am to 10:21am

Attendees: Snowdancer, Adrienne, Lisa, Stacy, Sue, David

Notes: Snowdancer, Adrienne

Lead for this month: Snowdancer

Agenda:

1. A standardized agenda format for Ministry Council meetings. (approved by all)

a. Chalice Lighting

i. Yes

ii. *William Stafford*

iii. "...no guarantees

iii. in this life.

v. But some bonuses, like morning,

v. like right now..."

b. Check In

b. Agenda approval

b. Discussion

b. New Business or tabled agenda

b. Chalice Extinguishing

i. Fitted for This Day, Rev. Kimberly Quinn Johnson *

ii. We are the ones we have been waiting for.

ii. We are not perfect, but we are perfectly fitted for this day.

ii. We are not without fault,

ii. but we can be honest to face our past as we chart a new future...

2. Update on upcoming worship services.

a. Lean heavily into the Soul Matters information is a good thing. At least once per month on thematic materials.

b. During the summer months, use past months of Soul Matters. A new series of Soul Matters starts each September.

3. Update on Rev Love working with us.

a. Rev Love's contract with the North Dakota church has been renewed.

b. Snowdancer will still try to arrange Rev Love to preach in-person and zoom once a month.

4. Idea for shared lead each month for our Ministry Council meetings.

a. Adrienne will lead next month.

b. Each meeting will nominate the next lead.

5. Transgender day of visibility.

a. Materials to put on the table: small square cards, some literature is available.

b. Can give out sanitizing wipes, water.

c. Stacy will look into the UUA website and see whether we will order some literature for the table.

d. The church has 3 cabanas. Maybe put some chairs for people to sit.

e. Story Reading at our booth? We can post when the story readings will be during the day.

6. Children-bodies and hands.

a. How do we get folks to help.

b. Last Sunday, Esther volunteered for children RE. Sometimes when there are many kids, e.g. 10, it is better to separate older and younger kids, like 10 years old vs. 5 years old.

- c. Esther may be able to help recruit some children RE teachers. Need to work out a process when kids are part of the service.
- 7. **Outreach/inreach.**
 - a. Patricia is recovering from her shoulder surgery.
 - b. Bob suggests that we have a day to call friends and members at the church that we have not seen for awhile.
- 8. **Sunday Morning Service**
 - a. **Audiovisual.** Training Ranjan, Sue, Adrienne. Ranjan and Sue will help tomorrow.
 - b. **Easter service at the south warehouse,** need to test the equipment, will rent some chairs. Stacy will coordinate kid activities, e.g. egg hunt. Outside activities need to be aware of the compost and raised bed in the most southern part of the open space.
 - c. **Service sign-in sheet.** David will print out 100 sign-in sheets. Need a system to pass on the new names and emails to Douglas. Sue will do that.
- 9. **Community Garden** - not covered this month.
- 10. **Social Justice Action** - not covered this month.
- 11. **New Business/Tabled Items:**
 - a. **Ministry Council GroupMe.** Someone needs to keep track of items resolved in the chat. How to communicate the chat discussion to the congregation? Consider website volunteer page. Now there are many digital channels. Post UUJXN links in FaceBook to take people to UUJXN website. *Sue, David, and Snowdancer will look into how to coordinate various digital channels (tabled for next time).*

February 11, 2023 9am to 10am

Attendees: Stacy, Katie, Sue, Adrienne, Bob, Gwen, Lisa

Notes: Adrienne, Stacy

Agenda:

1. **Update from Community Garden.**
 - a. Katie: ready to set up first raised bed and 4 leave bins. Will be experimenting with different strategies of making beds to see what works best for us.
 - b. Bought deep freezer for Berkeley compost method, 7 bales of straw, aged cow manure.
2. **Grants.**
 - a. Process for submitting grants in the name of the congregation. Need board review. Finance needs to inform Lisa, the treasurer. Each expense should go under a budget item and should be used for the purpose of the grant, to be accountable and good stewards of resources.
 - b. Katie: UUJXN received from MRC: \$4K for community garden, \$9K as member of MRC. Submitting grant about the well, partnering with ReRootD Futures Initiatives and Immigrant Alliance for Justice and Equity. *(Such exciting majick for our congregation!! -Snowdancer-)*
3. **Church website and social media:**
 - a. Stacy described her process for daily theme posts:
 - i. Download images from soul matters account
 - ii. Add logo to images
 - iii. Document all images, text for daily posts - typically have to create 3-10 additional posts as the soul matters materials provide about 20-25 posts

- iv. Schedule with Facebook Business manager - simultaneous schedule for posting on Facebook page (official), Instagram, UJXN Facebook group, and, if related, share with CUUPS
 - b. Website is used to officially list all services, news, and events
- i. If integrating with Facebook, need to direct them back to the website.
 - c. If requesting website updates, email requests to uucj@outlook.com and include *Website* in the subject line
 - d. Adrienne and Sue want to help out. Will get with Stacy to learn steps and gain access
- i. Sue - list events from website on Facebook, update website
- ii. Adrienne - update website
- 4. Expending funds**
 - a. The Ministry Council/Teams are empowered to spend money for the ministries of the church; however, whoever spends funds needs to know what funds they are spending (e.g., welcoming community or changing our world)
 - b. If you spend funds, submit expense items to uucj@outlook.com and include *Treasurer* in the subject line. Announce this after tomorrow's service.
- 5. Community defense meeting**
 - a. how to make communities safe without relying on police, get to know your neighbor, etc.
 - b. Gwen participated. Next meeting in two weeks.
- 6. Children**
 - a. Need nursery care - have Harper, need volunteers when she is unavailable - nursery care is from 10:30-12:30; attendants need to be there by 10:30 am
 - b. Need religious education volunteers - Stacy leads class, Taylor may help
 - c. Children will gather in the youth/large classroom until the RE teacher arrives; no children are in the UU Kids room without adult supervision
- 7. Volunteers**
 - a. Need volunteers for greeters, hospitality, clean up, etc. - webpage for volunteer jobs and to sign up: <https://www.uujackson.org/volunteers-needed/>
 - b. Need schedule and clear guidelines
 - c. Bob will serve as the volunteer coordinator

January 14, 2023 9am to 10:40 am

Attendees: Lisa, Snowdancer, Katie, Adrienne, Stacy

Notes: Snowdancer

Agenda:

- 1. Check In.**
- 2. Babysitting.** For StartingPoint Class - and at other times. Katie-someone is hired on Sundays for childcare. Committed to her hours. Has to be scheduled out if she is available for other times. For now, let's concentrate on Gwen and her wife (expressly want to join but have two boys who need watching). Also Linda and John with their children. Who will check in with them? Adrienne will check in with them. Stacy-it is always the second Sunday for StartingPoint.
- 3. Forums.** IF we decide to do Forums, people who are running the forum (facilitator) need to get there at least 15 minutes before to set up and begin on time. First we must know this: Who would be the facilitator? Need to find out who wants to do it. An announcement – we are willing to have a forum but we don't have a capacity for it right now – **requirement – facilitators have to step up.**
- 4. Email sent to us regarding the man with teens.** Snowdancer did reach out and did not hear back from him.

5. **Newcomers and StartingPoint Classes.** Stacy will do these in the timeslot space where people want them to be. Renovations to the building will include isolating the Youth Room for less disturbances. Stacy will follow up with potential attendees to see when they want to meet (i.e. at 9:30 am or 1 pm on Sundays). If they request a time, they should commit to being there.
6. **Hospitality signup sheet.** Adrienne has initiated a Google Docs. A link will be put in the weekly and on the website.
7. **Worship Scheduling.** Katie's services will be Feb 19 and Apr 23 (Earth Day Week) – if Drum Circle is requested, let Lisa know. Rev Love's dates have changed and require constant updating. Snowdancer will send all info to uucj@outlook.com ATTN: Website. Sometimes things change mid-week - we can only do the best we can at pre-information dissemination.
8. **Budget.** Board is concerned about deficit spending. We've been in deficit for three years. Group discussed the Exploring Our Beliefs budget.
9. **Replacement of Items.** Hymnals: both Gray and Tea are disappearing or people have them out. Buy and donate a hymn. Chairs: Half of chairs are very old. Do a weedout first?-this goes to our building person. Perhaps a backwall of benches will be added after/during our remodeling.

December 10, 2022 9am to 10am

Attendee: Snowdancer, Adrienne, Lisa Dunn, David Morgan, Katie

Notes: Adrienne

Agenda:

1. Check in
2. **Break in.** David Morgan: someone broke in between Sunday and last Tuesday. There is hole between our property and the recycling center property. Use thick glass to fix the broken glass.
3. **Community garden member access to warehouse and a restroom facility.** Key policy: secretary and Eric work together, secretary responsible for the key policy. Key access should be restricted but Eric can give individualized key code. Whether non-member of the church can have access to the building? Can look into outdoor bathroom. Need community Garden group to provide more details, e.g. whether non-members need access to the church space, or a member can always accompany non-members.
4. **David Love facebook email.** Need someone to organize a teen group. Other ways to connect: intergenerational services, vespers. Snowdancer will contact David Love.
5. **Beverage situation for Sunday services.** Provide water. David will make an online sign-up form that can go out with the weekly email.
6. **Sunday services schedule.** Can consider once a month intergenerational service. Snowdance: Six month commitment from Rev. Love in-person services once a month. She will also do some zoom services. MS Humanities Council has a Speakers Bureau. Jan 15 (MLK service), found one person with \$500 fee, MS Humanities Council

will pay \$300. Our church will pay \$200. Jan and Feb services are covered. Rev Poe from Safe Harbor can also provide some services. Standard UU counseling: \$135/hr. – Rev. Poe may charge less.

7. **Hospitality.** Who sends caring cards? Lisa will do this. Natalie and Adrienne can help. Eric is good at designing cards.
8. **Ministry Council v. Admin Council.** The Ministry Council includes Building and Ground. Does safety/security and maintenance issues go under Ministry Council or a new Administrative Council / Board? Will discuss further.
9. **December 11 Congregational Meeting.** Shall the church buy lunch? Katie will prepare lunch for the Congregational Meeting.

November 12, 2022

Attendee: Snowdancer, Adrienne, Lisa Dunn, David Morgan, Stacy Callender

Notes: Adrienne

Agenda:

1. Use Google doc to keep minutes (this document)
2. Sunday morning schedule.
 - a. November: MS Cluster Sunday, Craft Sunday.
 - b. December: Blue Sunday (Eric), 12-days of Christman, Kwanzaa, Snowdance is writing a play.
 - c. January: Jan 1 join with Home, Jan 8, Jan 15, Jan 22, Jan 29 Game day
 - d. February: Feb 12 Tap Scott, Feb 12 is also side with love Sunday
 - e. Can consider services using theme: this I believe, sing-along service
 - f. Stone soup service, Nov 20. Chicken stock (Jill), Veggie stock (Adrienne), still need beef stock. David M copied potluck link to church website. Snowdancer will contact whether Dary or Wendy will do the story reading. David M will buy a hot plate. Do new member recognition. Stacy will find the words for new member recognition.
- 3) Coffee at the service. Circulating a sign-up sheet for making coffee. Stacy will find the instructions.