

## Highlights from the December Board Meeting

Minutes from all regular Board & Congregational meetings may be requested from the UUS Administrator or found on the UUS website.

**Present:** Jim Laughlin (President), Kelly O'Berry (Past-President), Jane DeWitt (Vice-President), Peg Voelker (Secretary), Chris Rode (Treasurer), Steve Locher (Trustee), Kris Barrash (Trustee), Sara Feldmann (Trustee), Michael Honey-Arcement (Trustee), Rev. Steven Protzman (Ex officio), and Jessica Zimmer-Saltzman (DLRE)

**Absent:** Peggy Garrigues (DCL) – attended Interplay Workshop

**Guests:** Pete Brokaw, Tom McMurray, and Paul Pomrehn

President Laughlin called the Board meeting to order at 6:35 pm on Thursday, December 14th, in the Conference Room at UUS. Protzman provided opening words, followed by the Chalice Lighting. Laughlin welcomed guests and thanked everyone for their efforts these past weeks and months.

**Consent Agenda:** *Board Agenda; December Executive Committee Minutes; November Board Highlights and Minutes; Treasurer's Report & Financial Statements; Congregational Meeting Agenda; Budget Handout & Slides; December Voting Member List; Monthly Staff Reports (DLRE, DCL, Administrator, and Minister). Other items included: Finance Council Recommended Allocation of Reese Bequest; Historical Records Memorial Fund Request (Susan Eberly); Committee on Congregational Life and Ministries (CCLAM) December 2017 Report (Sharon Booker and Winnie Ganshaw); Facilities Coordinator Job Description (Emma Barnum); Building Steward Job Description (Emma Barnum).*

Rode recounted from his report for these minutes that in closed session on December 10th, 2017, the Board approved the hiring of a Facilities Coordinator for up to 600 hours per year, adding up to \$9,000 in expense to the proposed 2018 budget. Also of note from the Executive Committee minutes: Laughlin asked our insurance agent, John Raley, to provide the Board with a quote for Dram Shop insurance.

**Historical Records Memorial Fund Request:** The Historical Records Committee submitted a request for \$800 from the Memorial Fund to purchase a much-needed file cabinet. It will also have a brass plaque added stating "In Memory of Marilyn Jennewein." The Board unanimously approved the request.

**Finance Council (FC) Recommended Allocation of Reese Bequest:** The FC recommended allocating the Reese Funds as follows: 1) unpaid 2017 Operating Budget (\$1,400); 2) unpaid Capital Campaign Pledges (\$5,000); 3) 2018 Budget for Land Ministry (\$5,000); 4) STEM Fund goal deficit (~\$10,520); 5) Jean Reese Named Endowment Fund (\$100,000); and 6) the remainder Capital Campaign (~\$383,080). Guests were invited to comment. There was general agreement that given the congregation only recently learned of this bequest, members need more time to comment. The timeline to finalize the allocation of the bulk of the funds (~\$383,080) will be extended. The Board approved allocation recommendations one through five.

**Review Building Steward Position:** The Board discussed the need for a Building Steward. This new position would be supervised by Congregational Administrator, Emma Barnum. The Steward would have responsibilities outside those of the Facilities Coordinator or the custodial contractor. Further work is needed to define, fund, and hire for these duties. The Board gratefully accepted Peg Voelker's offer to work in collaboration with Building & Grounds, Emma, and the Board to explore and help define this position and the roles volunteers and others might play. Over the next six weeks, and with the help of volunteers, Voelker will also see that necessary facilities tasks are performed.

DeWitt reported as process observer. Barrash provided closing words. The meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm to a closed session. The next Board meeting is Thursday, January 11th, 2018, 6:30 pm at UUS.  
—Submitted by Peg Voelker, Secretary

## Highlights from the December Congregational Meeting

President Jim Laughlin called the meeting to order at 11 am after the service on Sunday, December 10th. A quorum was established with 93 of the 280 voting members in attendance. Laughlin asked if there were any motions to amend the agenda. None were made.

**Recognition of Green Sanctuary Designation:** In May, the congregation approved the Green Sanctuary Committee's resolution that UUS apply for accreditation as a Green Sanctuary Congregation. Laughlin read the UUA letter informing us that we received accreditation. It stated that, "your congregation is on a trajectory to provide leadership for environmental justice and sustainability for a long time to come."

**Lois Cole's Ordination Request:** Rev. Steven Protzman explained how UUA congregations have the responsibility and opportunity to ordain ministers. He introduced Lois Cole, stating that she has the education, gifts, and calling to serve. He then moved that the UUS congregation ordain her. The motion was approved unanimously.

**2018 Pledge Drive:** Dave Martin, Chair of Stewardship, reported that they are optimistic that UUS will reach the 2018 Pledge Drive goal. There was a standing ovation when Rev. Steven noted that this was Dave's 17th and final year on Stewardship.

**Jean Reese Bequest:** Chris Rode, Treasurer, announced that UUS was notified by the estate of Jean Reese that it was a named beneficiary of her retirement account. UUS will receive approximately \$505,000. Jean was a long-time member who died suddenly, May 18th, 2017. She obviously loved the Society and is/will be missed.

**2018 Proposed Budget:** Chris Rode, Treasurer, presented a detailed overview of the 2018 budget. He also provided members with a budget summary document that listed the proposed 2018 budget at \$543,454. The congregation unanimously approved the budget as presented.

**Committee on Congregational Life and Ministries (CCLAM) Report:** Winnie Ganshaw, representing CCLAM, underscored that our congregational goal is to have a shared ministry with our minister. She noted that there is strength in many of the 37 committees and activity groups that they are evaluating. However, creative effort is needed to recruit new leaders and involve new members.

After announcements and closing words the meeting adjourned.

—Submitted by Peg Voelker, Secretary