

Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Congregational Meeting Minutes
Feb. 9, 2020

Call To Order: 12:45 pm

Teri Rockwood: Into this place, may we come....

Attendance/Quorum: 19 members out of 33 members were present. With 57% attendance, quorum was achieved. Additional repeat visitors were also in attendance.

1. Congregation Update - Teri Rockwood

Thank you for taking the time to stay and engage in this Congregational Meeting. One of the intentions of this mid-year meeting is to provide you with updates on what we have been up to this church year, which started July 1, 2019.

If you know of something that has been missed, please feel free to share with us.

The new Board Members that came on are Desi Mims, Jason Harrington (who needed to resign in October), and myself. Jason's resignation has created a vacancy which Desi will address later.

We signed a contract in July with Paul Mitchell to be our Part-time lay minister. There was much enthusiasm around developing this new relationship. Paul developed heart issues in the beginning of September and had to resign this position. Paul is doing well and continues his work with the Keweenaw Fellowship and Michigan UU Social Justice Network. We hope to connect with him for some of the Social Justice Network happenings.

In August, I met with the Northwoods Learning Hub. They are a group of families who were looking for a space to provide a learning environment that they could rent two days per week. This relationship has been going well and provides us with a rental income September through May. They are in our building on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Thanks to Desi Mims and Erin Kilbourn, Tuesday night game night happens on a weekly basis with increased attendance as of late.

In October, Heidi Gould, our Administrative Assistant resigned after 5 years of service with us. She put a lot of heart and soul into her job and we will miss her working relationship with us. She is still in the Marquette area and will stay connected with us on a more casual basis.

We hired Alesia Braund in mid-November as our new Administrative Assistant. As a non-member, we will not see her on Sundays very often. She will be in the building several days a week attending to her tasks and keeping us connected with the This n That. We hope to have her and her family visit us soon during one of our Sunday Services.

John O'Bryan has taken on an Intern position with us through NMU. He is our Energy Administrator and is working on updating our fluorescent lighting. If you have electrical experience, I am sure he would appreciate your help with this.

The UP Witch and Pagan Community approached us last Fall looking for a special space to host their Full Moon Circles during the colder months of the year. You will see their events posted on Facebook and in the This n That.

A large TV Monitor has been purchased for the building, which was made possible by Joan Steindler's Bequest. It is mobile and able to be hooked into the speaker system. It is available for many uses: Sunday service, movie showings, UUA or Regional Workshop videos, etc. Please feel free to talk with me about how you might want to use this resource.

We continue to develop our relationship with the Room At The Inn program. We hosted last November and will be hosting again this March. Due to our small size, we usually keep it to two weeks per year. Last summer our relationship was damaged by a report of a missing laptop from the office. This computer was returned mysteriously in December. We made an official apology to RATI for making an accusation that it may have been one of their guests. They accepted our apology with grace.

John O'Bryan, Hannah Lantz, and their children Sorrel and Silvo became members. Along with Jill Malin. We will honor this in a member recognition in a service this Spring.

We have also had many repeat visitors and are grateful for these developing relationships.

Our Spiritual Exploration had a makeover this church year with the hiring of Co-coordinators Jamie Kuehnl and Nicole Harrington. You will hear from them shortly. We are grateful for all that they do for our children.

Rev. Marlin Kilpatrick approached us last Fall to be our Part-time minister. In response, we have had him provide some services and we have had a variety of opportunities to discuss and get to know him. We will address this vote of support after our updates.

All is well with our finances, other than we would love to have someone take on some of our treasurer tasks. If you can help with this, please let a Board Member know. Also, if you have any questions regarding our finances, please feel free to reach out to a Board Member.

Some other areas of volunteer need are Stewardship Coordinator, Building Coordinator, Hospitality Coordinator, Faith in Action Coordinator, and Sound System Coordinator. The Board will be developing a volunteer wish list with descriptions of what is needed at this time.

Your Board is happy to serve you, but will get burned out if we continue to be tasked with all of these volunteer needs.

2. Spiritual Exploration Update - Jamie is seeing the 7+ grades and Coming of Age. Sarah Johnson, John O'Bryan, Austin and Millie White are mentors. They had a retreat, served dinner at RATI and did a solo vigil. The next retreat will include way-finding as a group. Adam will offer a role-playing game. The group is going to Flint as a Social Justice project over spring break. There are still many families unable to drink or even bathe in the tap water. It's also the Poor People's Campaign that weekend. The SE group plans on coordinating events with other groups in Flint that weekend. The COA group will put on a crepe buffet on March 22, at 10 am before the service. May 31st will be a culmination of the COming of Age year. June 7th bridging ceremony for Ketlove. The Haiti project has been cancelled with political unrest in country. MqtUU will donate the \$3000 raised to YoutHaiti. March 6 will be a sledding/snowshoeing party at Jamie's lodge.

Nicole is the coordinator for PK-6th. We went from an average of 5 kids to 8 (10 today). We start the kid's session by exploring a Wonderbox which introduces the lesson. There is usually a story or two. The kids especially like the make-n-take projects. Then the group does their own Joys and Concerns and sing a song. Sometimes they continue the activity or the adults finish early. They've been working on acceptance of self and others. They explore spiritual activities and celebrations from various cultures. Appreciation of nature is also a topic. Nicole brings in current events such as Black History Month. Nicole has spent 6.4 hours cutting apples since the fall. Things like that eat up time. She asks for members' time, including running lessons and just hanging out. Please register kids who will be attending.

3. Sunday Services Update - Erin talked about the Sunday Service Team, a support system for members delivering a service to help with music, intergenerational moments, wording, Orders of Service, etc.
4. Vote of Support for hiring Rev. Kilpatrick as Part-time Minister
Of the 24 members and repeat visitors, 16 voted for having the Board move forward with negotiations with Marlin. Of the 19 Members present, 13 voted for moving forward, 5 against, one abstaining. Anne Stark asked for a volunteer to join her and Mary in forming a sounding board for Marlin. Gary Stark and Sarah Johnson volunteered.
5. Board Vacancy - Desi asked for volunteers and/or nominations for Treasurer

Closing words - Mari Maki.

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Anne Stark.