

Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Board of Trustees
Minutes for Monday, January 24, 2022

- I. Call to Order: 7:00 p.m.
 - A. Attendance: Erin Kilbourn-Mims, Jill Malin, Mary Maki, Susan Urban
 - B. Absent: Adam Skidmore
 - C. Other attendance: Martin Steindler, Sari Embley

II. Opening words and chalice lighting

III. Open Forum

Erin expressed in an email the following:

“In my real job we have been talking a lot about people volunteering and the truth is that the pool that volunteers come from has shifted to younger groups. As in they are no longer being pulled so much from retired people. So in order to keep volunteers they suggest short concise meetings to fit with people's more hectic schedules.” Erin had read through Robert’s Rules of Order and noted suggestions for small boards, defined as 12 people or less: Motions don’t need to be seconded; no limits on debate; motion does not need to be pending to be discussed; if a proposal is perfectly clear, it does not need to have a vote called for; meetings should be no more than two hours long. Discussion ensued. It was agreed to try these procedures out for this meeting to see if they are workable.

IV. Approval of Agenda. Jill motioned, approved.

V. Approval of December 20, 2021 Minutes. Susan motioned, approved.

VI. Treasurer’s Report.

Light month, end of year payroll, cleaning supplies purchased. \$2022.42 expenses, \$2,951.00 income.

Status of reduction in monthly loan payment – as of December, it had not yet been lowered. The extra money was to be applied to the principal. Jill was to follow up in person. As of February 4, the payment will be \$537.54 as per contract signed in August (lowered by approximately \$70). The extra for the months when the payment was not yet reduced was applied to the principal. \$49,007.20 is owed on the mortgage as of 01/24/22, there is a five year contract, will re-write as the end of that time.

Status of correction of employee Social Security data: As December, no one was able to connect with Gigi Gordon. Any progress on making this connection? No. She is working at at H&R Block. Jill is busy with year end items. Tabled until next month.

In October the Board approved a motion to pay for all eight forms (\$520) if the UP Tax Company agrees that this would be helpful, and if they cannot be found elsewhere. If this becomes necessary, we will have to decide what line item to use if we must spend this money (Erin suggested in October that it might be Admin). Any new developments? Tabled until next month.

Mary forwarded to the Board an email from Patriot regarding payments to employees. Jill and Mary indicated in an email that they had taken care of this. They confirmed that this has been done.

Jill has a \$250 bill for plowing which she will send out today.

Jill asked whether we should send a token gesture of support to Youth Haiti since there was a request in the mail for this. This was not approved.

Jill will work with the admin on year end tasks.

Mary brought up payment for three way services. \$200 came out of Sunday services budget in October for Sunday Services, and again in January. \$300 every three months is the agreed upon fee, or \$100 per service (this was reduced in fall due to February Sky having presented two of the three way services). Jill said she will follow up in more detail in future.

Mary referenced a discussion about the cost for the website in November, months have been entered, but there is no data recorded. We will concentrate on this church year as far as keeping the costs recorded.

Update of admin job description that was sent to the Board recently by the admin and the one in the Board books - Mary has compared these and seen some additions and deletions. Still continuing. Jill will follow up on end of year letters to document these responsibilities.

The seven year old MUUC Toshiba computer is not working well, it is very slow. In December the Board approved the purchase of two external hard drives for church data, one for a backup, for under \$50, to be put under the line item for office supplies. Erin mentioned that "in the files somewhere" is a phrase we hear too often in meetings. She suggested that we pay the admin for a few extra hours per week to digitize those old files, this would make them easy to search when we need to find something. Thus, we should buy larger hard drives to store this extra data. Erin suggested that we purchase a one terabyte size hard drive. She found one online for \$33.99. A two terabyte drive was \$4 more. Erin sent a link to Jill to purchase two of the two terabyte drives, and Jill did so. Authorization of extra time for the admin to digitize the files was tabled until next month pending the receipt of the hard drives.

VII. Spiritual Exploration Reports: SE and OWL – Sarah Johnson sent an email on January 17 outlining the current status of these. The email text was pasted on the last page of the 01-24-22 agenda. Sarah had not been aware that we had addressed some of her concerns in December. Susan sent her the second draft of the minutes from the 12-20-21 meeting, but Sarah was unable to open them. Susan resent these to her in different formats on 01-22-22. With regard to training and paying teachers for next fall, that will need to go into next year's budget, since we need to get a better picture of what our financial situation will be at that point. Mary Maki will contact Sarah about this.

VIII. Old Business

A. Monroe Husbands UUA Grant for lay led congregations: Status of meeting with grant writer Les Beck. Erin suggested that we do this on our own, Susan will send a link about this program to Mary, to find out whether the grant funds are still available. If so, we will have a special meeting in February to work on the grant, date TBA.

B. Status of condensed history of MUUC - Susan made some small revisions and resent with the 12-20-21 minutes, including that we went to presenting services online when the pandemic hit. She also verified on the UUA website that MUUC is a Welcoming Congregation, so she left that language intact. Mary would like to see information on what the size of the congregation has been over time. She will look up this information and get it to Susan to incorporate into the condensed history.

C. Results of Erin's talks with Teri before September's meeting about any undetermined Board Task Assignments:

1. Job descriptions need to be updated (see above), and Jill and Mary volunteered to do Desi's job performance evaluation. Still a work in progress.

2. Update of website myuua.org? We needed an updated membership list which does not include friends who have recently ceased pledging. Mary was to look into this and update. Mary worked this on the date of the meeting, since the admin had sent an updated membership list to her. Mary forwarded this to the Board immediately. Mary used this as source for updating the www.myuua website.

D. Three way services with Petoskey and Bay de Noc UU are continuing indefinitely. The admin was to provide feedback on what the cost of this will be. See discussion above.

E. The second payment of \$288 for our UUA program fund payment was due in December. Jill was to send this out immediately. Done.

F. Response to Marquette Catholic Diocese denying any of the Sacraments to anyone who is LGBTQ. As of January 22, according to the Mining Journal, some area Catholics are circulating a petition asking the diocese to soften its policy. As of the date of this meeting, the Diocese has backpedaled a bit due to protests, saying that they will no longer deny the sacraments to LGBTQ people, but that they will still try to "cleanse" them. MUUC's status as a Welcoming Congregation has been confirmed. The new LGBTQ flag that Jill ordered is now on display in front of the meeting house. Sari suggested that MUUC should take part in any and all local protests against this diocese.

VIII. New Business

A. Are we planning to support the proposed 8th UU principle? Mary suggested that each congregation would discuss the idea, and a representative will take the congregation's decision to General Assembly. Barb Michael would be willing to do a service on the 8th principle.

The Board will reach out to Sunday Services to schedule a date for this, with a congregational discussion. Jill said she would like to get some publicity for this prior to the service and discussion. She will also reach out to Barb to about a date and find out if she is OK with Zoom or only in person.

- B. Given that COVID cases are rising rapidly in Marquette County, and a number of our most active members have been sick recently, shall we return to all online services for some time? If so, Susan suggested that we commit to stay all online through March, at which point the weather will be approaching Spring. She suggested that we revisit this at the March Board meeting. Jill suggested that we continue in person services even if the presenter must be online, since the people who come in person will not attend via Zoom, plus there are few enough attendees that social distancing can be maintained, and attendees must wear a mask. This was agreed to after hearing Jill's observations.
 - C. Monthly day and time for next MUUC Board Meeting: Monday, February 21 at 6:30 p.m.
 - D. Board member presence at upcoming services: January 30: Jill; February 6: Mary; February 13: Erin; February 20: Susan.
- IX. Adjournment: 8:41 p.m.