

Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Board of Trustees
Minutes for Tuesday, March 22, 2022

- I. Call to Order: 6:40 p.m.
 - A. Attendance: Erin Kilbourn-Mims, Jill Malin, Mary Maki, Susan Urban
 - B. Absent: Adam Skidmore
 - C. Other attendance: Martin Steindler

II. Opening words and chalice lighting

III. Open Forum: No items

IV. Approval of Agenda. Susan moved to approve, approved unanimously.

V. Approval of February 21, 2022 Minutes. Jill moved to approve, approved unanimously.

VI. Treasurer's Report.

Positive \$2977.99 and debits \$1727.67, Jill will be paying \$270 for plowing and \$242.16 for the heating fix last November. Fairly light month for expenses, a bit of Econo slip income came in, pledges are coming in normally, although one friend stopped paying \$75 a month.

Mary requested that a reminder about Econo Slips be placed in This N That showing why, how, what. Erin said she will tell Desi.

Status of reduction in monthly loan payment – Nicolet Bank has NOT made the reduced payment of \$537.54 in March, rather than the \$606.35 they took in previous months. Last month Mary expressed concern about the difference going to principal. Jill will fill out another authorization statement to get this done and deliver it to the bank. They need to give us an amortization statement and a statement of the extra amounts being applied to principal. Jill will see to that we get this.

Voluntary payment from Wiccan/Pagan group for March meeting? Jill will follow up on this payment by looking in the place where it is usually to be found.

Status of correction of employee Social Security data:

Any progress on making a connection with Gigi Gordon? It was agreed that we need to give up at this point and find another way to get the records.

UP Tax Company has some of our records. Last month Susan expressed approval of Jill asking them for whatever records of ours they have. Jill has not had a chance to do this yet.

In October the Board approved a motion to pay for all eight forms needed to correct this situation (\$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).

Payment for three way services. Jill agreed last month to look into when these started and what we paid, and whether we owe any more. We owe them \$100 for March. We will also owe \$100 for April. It was agreed to pay this amount every month.

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. Jill agreed last month to follow up on end of year letters to document these responsibilities. Any progress on this? Not as yet. Mary observed that these responsibilities are different from what they were before the pandemic and the addition of Zoom services. Erin will have Desi meet with Jill online to give her instructions as to how to get onto the Sunday service Zoom meeting. Mary suggested that all board members be sent info as to how to do this.

The seven year old MUUC Toshiba computer is not working well, it is very slow. Jill purchased two two terabyte drives in January. These been received. The process of having current data transferred to them was project in progress last month. No new developments as yet.

Erin suggested in January that we pay the admin for a few extra hours per week to digitize old paper files. Authorization of extra time for the admin to digitize the files needs to be discussed. Current data has not yet been backed up, so we cannot make a decision on this yet. Mary suggested that we buy a computer for the congregation, Erin remarked that prices are unreasonably high on even used computers right now, and suggested that we wait until prices come down.

VII. Spiritual Exploration Reports: SE and OWL – Anything new to report?

Holi service in March was cancelled due to weather, has been rescheduled to May 1. This is something about which we should get some word out to the larger community. We will determine how to do this next month.

VIII. Old Business

A. Monroe Husbands UUA Grant for lay led congregations: The Board agreed that we will need to do this on our own rather than working with a grant writer. Susan sent a link about this program to Mary, to find out whether the grant funds are still available, on January 31st. Mary said that there are funds available!

Since funds are available, we need to set a date for a special meeting to work on the grant. Board members were to think about improvements that are needed and communicate them by email to the rest of the board, although this did not happen, there was a discussion of ideas. Susan suggested a rewiring of the sound system. Mary suggested that we spend the money for outreach and membership growth and long term survival. Susan asked what we could spend money on that would accomplish this. We will communicate with each other as we think about membership outreach items on which we could spend the grant money. Susan agreed to reach out to some other churches to find out how they have handled this.

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. Last month Mary agreed to go to the UUA website to attempt to get this information. Results? Mary looked into this, has membership numbers to add, she will send them to Susan for inclusion in the history.

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

Job descriptions need to be updated (see above), and Jill and Mary volunteered to do Desi's job performance evaluation. Anything new? No.

D. Support from MUUC for the proposed 8th UU principle. Mary suggested that the congregation should discuss the idea, and an MUUC representative will take the congregation's decision to General Assembly. Jill said she will be an MUUC representative at GA. Jill said someone at Bay de Noc UU, one of our partners in presenting the three-way services, has offered to do a service on the 8th principle on Sunday, April 10th. We need to schedule a forum on the 8th principle after the service on April 10. Jill had said she would like to get some publicity for this prior to the service and discussion. Susan suggested that some notices should be sent to local media.

E. UUA Congregation Certification was due by Feb 4, 2022. Erin obtained an extension to March 1. Is this now taken care of? YES!!!

F. Jill suggested last month that she, Erin and Teri clean up and reorganize the office and the back room with Desi's help. This has not yet been completed, tentatively scheduled for this coming weekend.

VIII. New Business

A. Masks in the meeting house – Per CDC website, current Marquette County COVID-19 Community Level is LOW. After reviewing their advice, it was decided to change our policy as follows, starting immediately: "Masks are recommended, but not required. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should attend virtually, email mqtuuadassist@gmail.com for a link to the Zoom service meeting." This N That and signage at the meeting house will be changed to reflect this policy.

B. Last month a member stopped sending money, creating a large drop in income. Any suggestions for replacing this income?

a. Erin & Desi are looking at starting a movie night with a suggested donation. They are looking into the legal ramifications of advertising to the larger community.

b. Mary suggested that we open our parking lot to the congregations with whom we share our triple services to use for overnight parking and RV parking, with a suggested donation for this use. Mary will look into county or municipal ordinances that might govern this usage.

c. Susan suggested that more flyers might be needed, since over time flyers tend to get taken down or covered up. She will print and send some of the existing flyers. Erin suggested a flyer with less text inviting marginalized groups to the congregation might be useful. She will send Susan a list of the groups to highlight on the flyers.

d. Susan will look into forming a group for the congregation similar to the old Yahoo groups, to try to fulfill Mary's request that messages to the entire congregation may be posted without everyone having to use Facebook.

C. Stewardship/Pledge Drive in April. What do we need to do?

a. Look up last year's pledge form letter, revise and send. Include a paper pledge form with the letter, and tell how to pledge via email.

b. Draft a letter to friends of the congregation outlining why they might want to become members, what the benefits and responsibilities are, including an identifiable financial contribution (treasures), also time and talent.

c. Member pledge letters and friend membership letters should go out no later than April 11, they should say they need to be returned by May 1. This will be a joint effort between Desi, Jill and Mary.

d. Susan suggested a patchwork service on why we find it worthwhile to make a pledge to keep the congregation going. Jill indicated that this can be done, on April 24. Jill, as part of the Sunday Services Committee, will lead the service, and will schedule several other members to give short talks on why they pledge to the congregation. The service title will be "The Sermon on the Amount."

e. It was decided that we should we set a goal for what we would like to raise in pledges, and that an appropriate amount would be 10% above last year. Jill will look into the total amount of last year's pledges, and determine what figure will be 10 percent above that.

f. It was agreed that a poster with a thermometer graphic showing the pledge goal and how much has currently been raised, updated weekly once pledge season starts, will be posted in the meeting house lobby, with a picture shared each week on Zoom. Jill will make the poster, possibly including data from other pledge years.

g. An Annual Meeting to vote on the budget formed from pledge results was tentatively scheduled for June 5.

D. Monthly day and time for next MUUC Board Meeting: Tuesday, April 19 at 6:30 p.m.

E. Board member presence at upcoming services: March 27: Erin; April 3: Erin; April 10; not needed (triple service Sunday); April 17: Susan; April 24: Jill.

IX. Adjournment: 8:52 a.m.