

Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, 4-18-23, 6:00 pm EST  
Via Zoom

1. Call to Order: 6:10 p.m.
  - a. Attending: Jill Malin, Martin Steindler, Susan Urban, Christie Jean Wagner
  - b. Absent: None
  - c. Others Attending: Mary Maki
2. Opening words and chalice lighting
3. Open Forum

Mary commented on the survey results, noting that the issue of peace was one of the higher rated issues. She said she wanted to connect with the peacemakers in her acquaintance.
4. Approval of Agenda: Jill moved to approve, Martin seconded, approved unanimously.
5. Approval of 3/21/23 minutes: Jill moved to approve, Christie seconded, approved unanimously.
6. Spiritual Exploration Reports: SE and OWL - Sarah
  - a. Review emailed report from Sarah

Sarah reports that there have been few children at services, although there was one on Easter and one on 4/16. Neither Sarah nor Teri are available to conduct SE on May 7. Mary suggested a backup plan with books and a canned service that anyone could use to work with children attending services. Jill suggested that any child care person needs a background check. Susan suggested that we use the play box that is in the Sanctuary when regular SE leaders are absent, so kids are busy but in sight. Christie will follow up with Sarah and Jamie.
7. Treasurer's Report - Jill
  - a. Review emailed report from Jill.

Cost for snow plowing was \$400.  
Incoming funds \$3,636.97 (the heating repair came out of the building fund, in the amount of \$1,361.97, that amount was added to incoming funds).  
Outgoing funds were \$3,853.09. Christie moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, Susan seconded, approved unanimously.
  - b. Review/change of newspaper ad.

Jill said we tried using the newspaper (the Mining Journal) for advertising MUUC. An ad would cost about \$8 per week. Jill said that the paper

comes out on Saturday, which doesn't give people enough time to plan for Sunday morning. We have discontinued the ad, with no plans to renew.

- c. Review of Internet connection – Christie was to look into this, no change. She will look into a better Internet connection.
- d. Credits, Debits and Balances for this month See above.
- e. Heating system repairs and costs See above.
- f. Status of Correction of employee Social Security Data No change, remove from agenda for next meeting.

## 8. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Munroe Husbands UUA Grant for Lay Led Congregations. Christie will make a proposal. Christie and Sarah offered to write it. No change.
- b. June 2022 Annual Meeting notes from Mary – The consensus was to leave the item in the agenda pending receipt of notes from Mary, citing the desirability of having a record of what was done at the meeting.
- c. Website review and updates - Susan/Christie - Susan said that she keeps up the basic information on upcoming services, Board of Trustees meetings and other events approximately once a week.
- d. Use and organization of the Google Drive – Christie. No Change.
- e. Monthly board meeting schedule: On Tuesday, May 2 there will be a special Board meeting via Zoom at 6 p..m. to plan the all member forum on the future of the congregation on May 21. The date for the next regular board meeting will be Tuesday, May 23 via Zoom at 6 p..m. (after the forum).
- f. Services Schedule: Service Leader, Topic, Zoom host
  - i. Using the spreadsheet & calendar for planning and documenting - Christie and Jill have been maintaining this.
  - ii. 4/23/23: Earth Month service or forum - Christie secured John Forslin as the presenter, John wants a longer time to talk than the time for a regular sermon, so Christie will develop a simple order of service around his talk. Christie will be Zoom host. Martin suggested that a bio for Mr. Forslin be added to the newsletter. Christie will send one, Susan will add it to the newsletter.
  - iii. 4/30/23: Activity with Petoskey UU for fifth Sunday, Zoom host will be Christie.
  - iv. 5/7/23: Mental Wellness Forum, Christie will be Zoom host.
  - v. 5/14/23: Triangle Service with Petoskey UU, Jill will be Zoom Host.
  - vi. 5/21/23: All Members and Friends Informational Forum and Discussion About the Future of MUUC, Jill will be Zoom Host.
  - vii. 5/28/23: No service due to Memorial Day Weekend.

g. Upcoming Events

- i. Social Justice Forums: May is Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Mental Health Awareness Month, Jewish American Heritage Month, National Clean Air Month, and No Mow May. <https://www.goodgoodgood.co/articles/may-awareness-days-months> - Christie. There was a discussion about keeping spirituality tied into these service forums.
- ii. Sober Dances - Jill said that there will be a Sober Dance on May 20th, with a 12 step meeting at 7 pm, the dance will be from 8-10 p.m. Jill will attend an organizational meeting for the dance on April 30 at 1:15 p.m., Christie may also attend.
- iii. April 19th, Holocaust Memorial Service, 7pm, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 201 E Ridge St, Mqt. Christie will be making a speech at this event in which she will talk about MUUC and UU Principles.
- iv. Christie noted that Music and Myth Mondays, organized by Keith Glendon, was referenced in the Health & Happiness U.P. Magazine. Keith may have moved away, but MUUC was mentioned in this article. There was a discussion of various ways to advertise events at MUUC, including Marquette Monthly. Jill and Christie will attempt to place a notice and/or ad in it about the Sober Dance. Christie moved to approve the notice, Martin seconded, approved unanimously.
- h. UUA annual certification for congregations due 2/1/23 – Christie - No change, she will follow up.
- i. Advertising on Google – Christie - No change, she will follow up.
- j. Email discussion list – Christie - No change, she will follow up.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Pledge Campaign for 2023  
A discussion took place about the future of MUUC and whether we should run a pledge campaign.
- b. Our goals, future, and strategic plan
  - i. Martin recommended discussion of activities/conditions for a successful future - Martin Follow up email
    1. Priority per Martin, find people for board, position to figure out where to go next by querying existing and previous members and friends on 10 or so items to consider. This was done as a survey, and the Board has the results.

2. Susan mentioned that we have to move quickly if we are going to move to a change to shared governance. It was observed that this is something on which the members will need to vote.
  3. Survey results – only 11 people filled out the survey.
  4. After some initial review of the member and friends survey results (results most of the board had not had time to fully review before the meeting), it became clear that the board needs more time to review the survey, gather facts, options, and determine its recommendations, if any, to the membership. In an effort to be fair and open to the membership about the board's assessment of the state of the congregation, it was also agreed that this assessment should be shared with the membership in a timely manner, and before a pledge campaign is initiated. Sunday, May 21st was selected as the best time to present and discuss our various options in a forum with MUUC members and friends. This forum will be informational, no voting will take place, since the membership will need time to consider what is discussed. The Board scheduled a special meeting for Tuesday, May 2 via Zoom at 6 p.m. to plan the all member forum.
- ii. Martin recommended that we develop MUUC positions on local non-political issues. - Martin Follow up email - UUA as a resource for topics. See Christie's activities above.
  - iii. Discussions and working with Paul Lund about possible governance by a committee of the whole. Tabled pending results of the May 21 informational forum.
    1. Bylaw changes
  - iv. Hiring a part time minister? Tabled pending results of the May 21 informational forum.
    1. Description of duties
    2. Recruiting and advertising
  - v. Hiring an Administrative Assistant? Tabled pending results of the May 21 informational forum.
    1. Description of duties
    2. Recruiting and advertising
  - vi. All members meeting? See above.
- c. Episcopal church suicide prevention training - a training will be held for church leaders in August. Tabled to next regular BOT meeting date.

- d. Bay de Noc UU sent an email to [mqtuadassist@gmail.com](mailto:mqtuadassist@gmail.com) proposing sharing a table at Pridefest, this is OK with all. Question as to which Pridefest, what date. Susan will send a reply to this email. U.P. Rainbow Pride event is June 10th, 1:00 PM – 10:30 PM at Ellwood Mattson Lower Harbor Park in Marquette.
- e. Possible changes in fee structure for renting the sanctuary. Tabled to next regular BOT meeting date.

Adjournment: 8:30 p.m.