

DRAFT
Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Board of Trustees Minutes, Tuesday, 5-23-23, 6:00 pm EST
Via Zoom

1. Call to Order:6:09
 - a. Attending:Jill Malin, Martin Steindler, Susan Urban, Christie Jean Wagner
 - b. Absent: None
 - c. Others Attending: Mary Maki, Rhonda Jones, Laura Lancour
2. Opening words and chalice lighting
3. Open Forum

Rhonda Jones asked if the building is available for a weekly 30 minute dance exercise class in the back classroom area only. It would be donation based, for approximately ten people. Christie asked if Rhonda had looked at the building use policy on the website, Rhonda said no. Christie sent her a link to that. Christie said there had been precedent for a similar activity in the past, and asked Rhonda what she thought she would collect for donations. Rhonda said at this time she could not be certain. Christie asked when Rhonda needs an answer. Susan asked if Rhonda thought that it would be about an hour a week, Rhonda said yes. Christie asked about lack of padding in the area. Susan suggested that there would be little in the way of cleanup. Rhonda said she would like Thursdays 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. Shine Dance Fitness is the name of the class. Jill proposed ten weeks for \$100 total plus a \$50 key deposit, similar to what the Pagan group had. The Board agreed to discuss this later in the meeting and get back to Rhonda. Christie asked if Rhonda would be OK with our promoting the classes. Rhonda said yes. Christie will send her all contact info.

Mary asked about the laptop that was purchased recently for use by the congregation. Christie used her own laptop for Zoom broadcast the previous Sunday because she knows it well, the internet problems were due to issues with her machine, and that she would make sure this would not happen again.
4. Approval of Agenda as Modified: Martin moved to approve, Jill seconded, approved unanimously.
5. Approval of 5-2-23 minutes with modification to title: Jill moved to approve, Christie seconded, approved unanimously.
6. Spiritual Exploration Reports: SE and OWL - Sarah
 - a. Review of the emailed report from Sarah, using the 'play box' for parent supervised activities at the back of the sanctuary space when SE/RE staff are not available. She also said there are still no kids, and OWL was successful.
7. Treasurer's Report - Jill
 - a. Review report from Jill

It was a light month, there was a heat repair, plus normal expenses. We paid Petoskey for triangle services, and we got \$134 in Econo receipts.

Jill reported that we have paid tax on gas bills from SEMCO which we are not obliged to do as a non-profit. Jill filled out the form to get it back.

- b. Credits, Debits and Balances for this month
Incoming \$1,559.45, Outgoing \$1,551.95.
Pledges are fairly current, Jill will follow up on collecting the small amounts still outstanding.
- c. Review of Internet connection – Christie. No change.
Christie moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report, Martin seconded, approved unanimously.

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 - Mary said she will get this done within the next few weeks, in time for next annual meeting.
- c. Website review and updates - Susan/Christie - Susan will figure out why links to Treasurer’s report links are not working. Susan has continued to do basic maintenance, otherwise no change.
- d. Use and organization of the Google Drive – Christie shared materials from the May 21 Forum via a link that anyone can see. This is still a work in progress, but she has plans for sharing spreadsheets that anyone can see.
- e. Mary said she could not get into the MUUC email account, she asked if passwords had changed, Christie and Susan said no. Christie will follow up with Mary to make sure she has the current password.
- f. Monthly board meeting schedule:
 - i. Tuesday, June 13 at 6 p.m. via Zoom for the Budget planning meeting, If we need another meeting before the annual meeting on June 25, it will be June 20 at 6 p.m. via Zoom.
- g. Services Schedule: Service Leader, Topic, zoom host
 - i. Social Justice Forums, June is Father’s Day, Juneteenth, LGBTQIA+ Pride, Alzheimer’s and Brain Awareness Month, July Month? Equality, Reproductive, Democracy or Electoral Justice? - Christie
 - ii. 5/28/23 – NO SERVICE - Memorial Day Weekend
 - iii. 6/4/23, – Sarah presenter, Bridging ceremony, Christie will be Zoom host.
 - iv. 6/11/23 – Triangle Service, Christie will be Zoom host.
 - v. 6/18/23 – Another Forum/open discussion on the future of MUUC.
 - vi. 6/25/23 – Annual Membership meeting with no service beforehand, voting for board members, and budget. Jill will be Zoom host..
 - vii. 7/2/23 – Fourth of July ‘weekend
 - viii. 7/9/23 – Triangle Service.
 - ix. 7/16/23 - No plans pending results of Annual Meeting.
 - x. 7/23/23 - No plans pending results of Annual Meeting.
 - xi. 7/30/23 - Fifth Sunday Fellowship with Petoskey UU?
- h. Events
 - i. 5/20/23 Sober Dance - discussion of outcome – Jill said that the light show for wall worked well, people learned to dance sober, total attendance was about 25, she will probably host another one in September or October.

- ii. 6/10/23 - LGBTQIA+ U.P. Rainbow Pride event is June 10th, 1:00 PM – 10:30 PM at Ellwood Mattson Lower Harbor Park. Christie proposed that we order 50 pamphlets from the UUA. Martin moved to approve, Susan seconded, approved unanimously. Bay de Noc UU will send a representative so that the two congregations will be in solidarity. Bay de Noc UU shared with us that there is also an Esky Pride picnic on June 4. Sarah and Jamie hosted Rainbow Pride last year, they told us that they will do it again this year. Christie will contact them to see if she can help out.
- iii. 6/19/23 is Juneteenth, there will be no celebration event in Marquette for MUUC to support this year.
- i. UUA annual certification for congregations due 2/1/23 - Christie completed this.
- j. Advertising on Google – Christie originally proposed working on this, on hold for the time being. She will take it off the next agenda.
- k. Email discussion list – Christie will do this. Susan will send Christie info on I/O groups.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Room rental for Shine Dance Fitness hosted by Rhonda Jones. Jill suggested that we have approximately the same agreement as we had with the Pagan group. This would be a trial \$100 for ten visits/weeks, plus a \$50 key deposit. Jill said she would go to the classes and keep an eye on things at the meeting house. Jill moved to approve, Christie seconded, approved unanimously. Christie will let Rhonda know our decision.
- b. Apparent hot water system leak near sanctuary south side exit door has been repaired. Christie will work on drywalling the repaired area.
- c. Possible changes in fee structure for renting the sanctuary. Mary said we should increase fees by a percentage across the board, and get it into paperwork and policies. Jill said it all is online, and people can see it for now. Laura said the cleaning fee should be set and not refunded. A discussion ensued about NLH, it was agreed that we should not raise their fees so much that they go elsewhere. Mary suggested that the cost of utilities has gone up, so we should raise rates. Christie made a motion that we raise our rates 20%, to \$60 for a half day, \$120 for a full day, with a nonrefundable cleaning fee of \$85,. Christie moved to approve, Martin seconded, approved unanimously.
- d. Pledge Campaign for 2023 – Jill has worked on a letter, as of this date it had been sent only to Board members. She will send it out by snail mail in the next few days. She has already send out an Email version of the letter. Jill will send the letter to Susan for the TNT.
- e. DISCUSSION OF 5/23/23 FORUM - Our goals, future, and strategic plan - related handouts available at https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Jc41Fpd26BeB8bpWxR74nKDGsAwhAYhz?usp=share_link
 - 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.
 - 2. Susan, we have to move quickly or change toward a shared governance

- ii. Martin recommended we develop MUUC positions on local non-political issues. - Martin Follow up email - UUA as a resource for topics.
- iii. 5-23-23 Presentation contents
 - 1. What information do we and the membership still need to know?
 - a. More detailed and final draft of Proposed 23-24 budget?
Will get this done at 6-13 meeting.
 - b. More information about the shared governance option?
Christie will follow up with information on this via email.
 - c. Other? None
 - 2. What are our options?**
 - a. Close for summer
 - b. Limit Sunday Services
 - c. Modify Sunday services format and scheduling, online coffee time after the service
 - d. Get help from UUA, regional and other UU organizations and congregations
 - e. Get the word out by NMU connections, ads, and free things
 - f. Sell the building or sell a part of the property
 - g. Dissolution of the Congregation
 - h. Shared Governance by a committee of the whole - Discussions and working with Paul Lund
 - i. Bylaw changes
 - i. Hiring a part time minister?
 - i. Description of duties
 - ii. Recruiting and advertising
 - j. Hiring an Administrative Assistant?
 - i. Description of duties
 - ii. Recruiting and advertising
 - k. Hire an SE/RE Recruiter?
 - i. Description of duties
 - ii. Recruiting and advertising
 - 3. What are the board's recommendations? (Previously)
 - a. Susan
 - i. Get the word out by NMU connections, ads, and free things
 - ii. Part time minister
 - iii. SE/RE Recruiter
 - b. Jill
 - i. Hire Admin Assistant
 - ii. Find a minister
 - iii. SE/RE Recruiter
 - c. Martin
 - i. Sell meeting house
 - ii. Maintain UUA congregation status
 - iii. Rent a room in Marquette for Sunday Services

d. Christie

- i. Shared Governance
- ii. Get the word out by NMU connections, ads, and free things
- iii. Part time minister

An extended discussion of all the items under e. above took place. Since the meeting had gone on three hours, it was decided to end the meeting at 9:00 p.m. and continue having discussions online, and it was agreed that we should have consensus on these issues at the end of the budget meeting on June 13, and that we should present our recommendations to the congregation at the June 18 second forum and open discussion on the future of MUUC.

10. ADJOURNMENT: 9:03 p.m.