

Minutes, UUFLG Board of Trustees Meeting, Oct. 12, 2023

This meeting of the UUFLG Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:09 p.m. by video conference.

Present:

Karen Fitch (vice president)

Donna Brewer

Lynn Golbetz (secretary)

Julie Matthews (treasurer)

Lauri Feetham (trustee at large)

The board approved the agenda for the October 12, 2023, meeting.

The board approved the minutes for the Sept. 14, 2023, meeting.

Welcoming Congregation

The board has received information from another organization that in previous years, one of our members repeatedly engaged in harassment/bullying, especially of members of the LGBTQA+ community. The board has not received any such information from anyone in our fellowship. The board discussed its responsibilities to both the member and the rest of our community. The following steps will be taken:

- Lynn will circulate our policy on personal safety/prevention of abuse to the discussion list, with a reminder that folks should let any board member know if they see anything that seems inconsistent with our values.
- One of the service associates will announce from the pulpit that this policy exists and has been circulated, and remind the congregation that we are a safe space.
- Two board members will meet with the member as soon as possible to discuss the matter and clarify our expectations for those participating in Fellowship life.

Finance

Our current property tax exemption category is “church with a religious subclass.” This saves us \$7,000 a year. However, since we rent to more than just religious organizations, we should be in the category of “church with a charitable subclass” (this includes religious, educational, charitable, and medical rentals). Lauri has graciously agreed to fill out the necessary forms. We expect the exemption to be less but still worthwhile.

Julie will set up the defibrillator fund as a restricted donation account and track all donations. If insufficient funds are collected, we will return the money to the donors.

There Building & Grounds reserve at the bank currently exceeds \$100,000. We do not anticipate needing this much within the next year (the next priorities are the HVAC, which should last 5-10 more years, and the cupola, which will require time and thought). The Finance

Committee therefore recommends moving \$50,000 to a 13-month CD, which will increase our interest rate from 4% to 4.8%. If something catastrophic happens that requires the use of those funds, we will break the CD.

Stewardship

Julie and Lauri updated the board on the status of the HVAC system. The contractor who inspected it found that it was working in the sanctuary but not in the West Room, because a motor had burned up. A new motor will be installed tomorrow. A capacitor and new filters are also needed and have been ordered. The repairs will cost about \$2,000 in total, which is within the Building & Grounds annual budget. We should get the HVAC serviced more frequently to maximize its lifespan.

There are signs of rats on the east side by the HVAC unit. However, these are not new, and there is no indication action is needed at this time. The kitchen has been ant-free of late.

Asphalt firms are generally not interested in small jobs such as our parking lot. Lauri will be contacting Bill Gould for recommendations.

The mutual audit with UU Sunnyvale is moving forward.

Social Action

A member has suggested taking up a collection to benefit those suffering from the current violence in the Middle East. Lauri will check with Social Action about this.

Sunday Services

Karen has checked the UU ministerial site for potential speakers but has not seen anyone promising. Lynn will pursue contacting Rev. Stefanie Etzbach-Dale.

RE

Kristin is starting OWL training this month. Aytug will be joining her in this.

Transition

Karen is finishing up the UUA forms and has drafted an ad for the jobs board. She should be able to post the ad this week.

Members have been asking about progress with the minister search. The monthly board report in What's Happening has informed everyone who is on the committee. However, more communication is needed. Karen will give a progress update this Sunday. It is also possible that, if the fellowship hears we are having trouble getting assistance from UUA, someone may have a contact there and volunteer to connect with them.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 9, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Golbetz (Secretary)

Action Items

Karen and Lynn: Organize office, closets

Future Agenda Items

Proposed Stewardship projects; investigate officially becoming 501(c)(3) (we are a California nonprofit); someday/maybe, revise rental banner, create outdoor announcement board