

Minutes, UUFLG Board of Trustees Meeting, October 9, 2024

This meeting of the UUFLG Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by video conference.

Present:

David Voris (president)	Lauri Feetham (trustee at large)
Will Kropp (vice president)	Shams Cohen (minister)
Lynn Golbetz (secretary)	Donna Brewer (congregational leader)
Julie Matthews (treasurer)	

The board approved the minutes for the September 11, 2024, meeting.

Minister Report

Shams, Dave, and Will plan to meet with Melissa James of UUA on October 23.

The board approved the commission/endorsement of Shams as an affiliated minister of our congregation. This document was previously circulated for review. Dave will sign it on the board's behalf.

Russ Menk, formerly minister at UU Santa Cruz, will be Shams's mentor. Shams will also be attending a UU ministers' retreat.

The board discussed a reported sighting of a gun at the Fellowship. Someone informed Shams during social hour on October 6 that they believed a man standing near the children's play area was carrying a gun. Shams spoke to the man and concluded there was no threat to safety. He does not plan to return to the Fellowship, and no followup is needed. One member expressed concern as to whether the allegation was racial profiling. The person making it is not a member or regular attendee; we have no way of knowing if they were profiling, but this was not a Fellowship action.

Finance

The board reviewed and approved the September financial reports.

Lynn, Julie, and a representative of a generous anonymous donor of gold took possession of the gold at the donor's home on September 26. Julie had previously obtained a phone estimate of its value from a dealer. Upon receiving it, Lynn and Julie immediately took the unopened package to a second dealer, Glenn Lovelady of Lovelady Diamonds in Los Gatos. Glenn offered to buy it for \$35,962, which was higher than the first estimate Julie had received. Lynn and Julie accepted Glenn's offer and deposited his check for that amount in the UUFLG bank account the same afternoon. Julie has provided the donor with copies of the receipts from Glenn and the bank.

Stewardship

The cleaning is presently under control. Anna Stubstad will be doing light cleaning on Sundays or Mondays (west room and bathrooms), and a bonded, insured professional service will be coming in once a month.

Lauri reported that painting the chancel area would cost \$450, including the paint. Painting the whole sanctuary, which could use it, would cost \$1780. She will also be meeting with a contractor for an HVAC estimate tomorrow.

Task Force on Online Presence

The board agreed that the Fellowship's online presence is quite outdated. Will previously circulated a proposal to create a task force to make some improvements. Most of the existing language should not need changing, but regular posts, including photos, are needed to make clear we are active. The proposal would also bring all our online platforms (website, Facebook, Instagram) under the control of the Communications Manager; at present these ownerships are scattered. It would also be desirable for all our online pages to have a similar look that communicates more about us. No money should be needed.

The board approved the online task force charter as circulated, and authorized Will to approve individual content items without specific board approval.

Before posting any pictures, Will will propose an online image policy for board approval.

Board and Fellowship Goals

Will reviewed the feedback received at the spiritual café discussing the future of UUFLG. Notably, no one expressed any problems with Sunday services. People do want more community activities, "the way it was before." Examples are dinners and the annual auction.

It was suggested that, rather than focusing on getting more volunteers, it might be more productive to think about getting people involved in the Fellowship again. What do people feel passionate about and want to give? Melissa of UUA may have further suggestions. Event fundraisers, such as dinners and Edy's art show, also have the double benefit of building community (just enjoying being together) and raising money. Will may know someone who could help organize an auction.

Other suggestions included:

1. People may not be aware of the need for volunteers.
2. It might be helpful to break down and document the big jobs to make them more understandable and manageable.

In line with our social action ideals, the board decided to hold a second Share the Plate in October dedicated to hurricane relief. This will be on October 27; donations not marked for UUFLG will go to an organization such as World Central Kitchen or the Red Cross, earmarked for hurricane relief efforts. This will be promoted in advance via the discussion list.

Another long-term goal is to encourage all to engage in conversations about difficult topics rather than departing the Fellowship because of them. As part of this effort, Shams will be preaching on covenant and right relationship.

Governance

The board discussed the U.S. Corporate Transparency Act, and determined that the Fellowship entity as a non-profit is not required to comply with this act.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 13, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Golbetz (Secretary)

Motions Approved

The board approved the September financial reports.

The board approved the commission/endorsement of Shams as an affiliated minister of our congregation.

The board approved the online task force charter as circulated, and authorized Will to approve individual content items without specific board approval.

Action Items

Lynn: Write blurb for hurricane relief donation to circulate via discussion list

Will: Create shared Google folder for Fellowship with suitable subfolders