

## **Minutes, UUFLG Board of Trustees Meeting, December 11, 2024**

This meeting of the UUFLG Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by video conference.

### **Present:**

David Voris (president)	Lauri Feetham (member 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 November 13, 2024, meeting.

### **Minister Report**

Shams is working with Donna to create a regular structure around welcoming new members. She is also planning to offer conversation or group pastoral care in the sanctuary after social hour on third Sundays for whoever wishes to attend. She will discuss use of the Minister's Discretionary Fund with Julie, and the board will discuss this in January.

### **UUA Resources**

Guest Melissa James is our regional contact with the national UU Association. Her role is to help congregations thrive, and we determine how involved we would like her to be. That is, if we contact her with questions, she will provide resources and/or discuss them with us. In particular, she can provide information on what other congregations have done/are doing in our region. For example, Julie has been looking for standard operational practices and resources, such as an employee handbook, and Melissa can send her these.

Melissa can also provide reading materials and advice on mission and vision statements and strategic planning. Will intends to talk with her one on one about how to begin the strategic planning process. The current positive energy around Shams's arrival can help generate momentum in creating a road map.

Shams would like a board/minister start-up meeting on how UUFLG leadership operates, how decisions are made, expectations, and boundaries, particularly for her as our minister. Melissa would be able to conduct such a meeting. Shams will talk with her about expectations/boundaries and present a proposal for the board to discuss.

Will suggests moving to work with other local congregations on mission and vision development. One option would be for Melissa to hold a general workshop on these issues, then work with individual congregations.

### **Finance**

The board reviewed and approved the November financial reports.

There has been a generous unexpected donation of \$10,000. The donor is not anonymous but is not seeking public recognition. Dave will write them a note of thanks on behalf of the board.

Lauri will check with Brady Williams regarding a potential bequest from Sue Fera.

### **Stewardship**

In response to the fire inspector, the beads across the sanctuary exit doors have been removed, and Lauri plans to drop the fire extinguishers off for servicing tomorrow. Some of our emergency exit signs (needed if the power goes out) do not light up. Lauri has a call in to the electrician. Dan Gruhl is working on the smoke alarms, and we need to remember to change the batteries every year. We are not required to have a sprinkler system or wired alarm.

The piano has been tuned.

### **Governance**

Will has checked other congregations' photo policies. Generally, folks attending a church have implicitly given permission for their pictures to appear on the church website, unless they request otherwise. However, he will draft a policy on not posting pictures of minors without express permission, and bring this to the board.

### **Community**

In January, Will plans to start a regular Wine and Spirits social/spiritual meeting, working with Shams to determine potential themes.

Lauri suggests a soup-salad-bread-dessert-wine night to welcome Shams and her family, date TBD. Lauri will plan the event; Lynn will help on the night, and Will will set up a wine bar.

### **Religious Exploration**

Effective January 1, any RE staff member who has not completed lawfully required fingerprinting and trainings on child abuse and workplace violence will be suspended from working with children until they do complete the fingerprinting and trainings.

Colleen is trying to get custodianship of the ORI number, which is required in order to look at the fingerprint reports.

RE is seeking another OWL facilitator for future classes.

RE has suggested that the staff attend a local UU meeting on brainstorming the future of multigenerational UU congregational life, which Shams will also attend. Because the staff will not really be responsible for creating multigenerational programming, the board believes that adult representation at this meeting would be more useful in the long term. The board encourages attendance by RE Committee members and others who are interested. If staff members have already indicated interest in going, they should be paid for their time. Julie will let the RE Committee know how much money remains in its budget and authorize the additional expenditure if necessary.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 8, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn Golbetz (Secretary)

**Motions Approved**

The board approved the November financial reports.

**Action Items**

Dave: Write note of thanks to donor

Julie: Discuss Minister's Discretionary Fund with Shams  
Let RE Committee know how much remains in its budget

Lauri: Check with Brady re potential bequest from Sue Fera  
Plan Soup with Shams event

Will: Create shared Google folder for Fellowship with suitable subfolders  
Talk with Melissa James about strategic planning  
Draft photo policy regarding minors