

Tahoma Unitarian Universalist Congregation Board of Trustees Meeting
March 19, 2020 * 7-9pm via Zoom (Corona Virus meeting site)
Minutes

Attending: Rev. Linda Hart, Ministerial Intern Erien Babcock, Church Administrator Libby Ball, Debbie Cafazzo, Penny Douglas, David Pettit, Mark Schemmel, Holly Coryell, Christine Chansely, Cindy Hackett (notetaker)

Unable to attend: Jeff Ruthford (work demands)

Chalice Lighting - Linda Hart "What It Takes to Survive?"

Sabbatical:

- Committee has recommended Joe Rettenmaier for the position of Sabbatical Minister. He is a Meadville Lombard Theological School graduate, interned with the Edmonds Unitarian Universalist Congregation, lives in West Seattle. The committee was impressed with how thoroughly he has thought through what the position might involve. Christine commented on a phrase he used - "chaperoning the congregation" - representing his focus on supporting our community rather than how this position will help him.
- Linda proposed postponing her sabbatical until January 2021 because this seems such a "chaotic time to take a sabbatical." Discussion about the wisdom of this resulted in agreement that despite Linda's need to "refill her cup" postponing would reassure the congregation. (She will take June and July off and hopes to still take her research trip to England.) Linda will contact Joe Rettenmaier and the other applicants, as well as communicating with the Sabbatical Committee and the congregation.

Annual Meeting:

- Annual Meeting can be done via Zoom; we are not required to hold it in person.

Ramp:

- David reported that Michael Franklin has begun working on the ramp reconstruction which was approved by a quorum of Board Members via email on March 5, 2020. Funds will come from the Reserve Fund (\$4540.20, including \$570.00 of in-kind donations).

Women's Retreat:

- New dates: September 11-13 2020.

Budget Drive:

- Debbie reported that the budget drive will be virtual. Alana Franklin delivered the opening message via enews; three people will deliver online video messages via cell phone: V Carhart, Scott Redman, and (possibly) Alison Dodge.

- Active discussion about what amount to propose ranged from “maintain current level”, to “ask for what we agreed on in an earlier meeting” (about a 6% increase to enhance music program, Religious Exploration and other programs), to “hold steady at current level with focused fundraisers for specific projects.” Board agreed to propose a “Brave Budget,” requesting an increase of 6% in pledges. Goal is to encourage optimistic and forward thinking; to evidence that we trust the congregation’s commitment to the TUUC mission and vision.
- Be aware that some will be able to respond to the 6% increase and many won’t.
- Process: Focused messages in enews, online testimony, telephone outreach. Getting testimony widely shared (web page, facebook page, etc) may bring new people in who are finding themselves hungry for spiritual connection/community.

Caring for the TUUC Community:

- Challenging for many to connect via technology. When it’s hard, people don’t connect. Virtual experience is not as satisfying for many as real time experience. How do we maintain our community?
- Online survey through the enews inviting people to express their experience and to help us identify those who need or want help, and/or telephone contact and those who are willing and able to help others be/feel connected.
- Activate a telephone tree.

Checkout replaced usual check-in tradition:

- Those attending shared how they were feeling and managing.

Adjourn