

UUFM Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 9, 2018 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Jessica Sievers, Chair

Mark Mayfield, Chair-Elect

Chris Bailey, Secretary

Eli Martinson, Treasurer

Kathleen Oldfather, Member at Large

Absent Rev Jonalu Johnstone; Courtney Albin, Past Chair; Lily Colburn, Member at Large

Sandy Nelson, Director of Religious Education

Gather and Welcome

Opening Words– Jessica Sievers

1) Consent Agenda

a) September Minutes Approval: Eli moved; Kathleen seconded. Minutes approved as amended.

2) Updates from Chair – J. Sievers

a) Celebrations- New members who are jumping right into the deep end. New member breakfast went very well and we'll probably start having the small-group dinners again thanks to the efforts of Madilena Mendiola.

b) Gratitudes-

c) Board Goals 2018-2019 Discussion- Share top three goals

i) Chris: Growth and sustaining full time ministry.

ii) Kathleen: Board Retreat goal list, her top-three: Increase membership, maintain facility, identify and develop future leaders.

iii) Eli referred to retreat list also: Reorganization, increase visibility, programming for 18-35 year olds to increase retention of our own youth into the fellowship.

iv) Mark thinks all our goals are aimed at growing our community, so what might help us get there? Understand the breadth of our umbrella, from the core of our message so we can put it out there.

Having the space taken care of is a huge part of that. Figure out what keeps people coming back and spreading our message. Finish the picnic table.

v) Sandy: Make an addendum to our mission statement stating it in a succinct 6-10 words, to make an easier tool to guide us in our growth and everything else. Mark and Eli recall that specifically being encouraged at Leadership School.

vi) Jessica: Growth. Focus, one or two things we're really good at, like OWL, which is unique to Unitarianism and open to the community. Also looking deeper into our UUFM community, like we do with monthly Themes and Chalice Circles.

More on this next time.

d) Reorganization/Four Facilitators Update- Note from Courtney. Courtney spoke to Mark and Matt who are willing to speak to a committee once formed, to take over facilities responsibilities. Jimmy

Bridges is also willing volunteer on membership issues, and has a number of ideas bourn of previous experience. Sandy also spoke to a new member named Heather about volunteering.

e) Accessibility and Inclusion Issues Webinar Info:

(1) We experience lots of visible disabilities but many people experience invisible disabilities.

(2) Disabled members may find their faith extra important to them and accommodations more critical to their involvement.

(3) How welcoming is a fellowship? How much pride of space do we take in our handicapped parking and similar areas?

(4) There are a number of practical suggestions.

(5) Deal with individuals directly and make sure to ask what could enhance their participation and whether they wish to have an accommodation made.

<https://www.midamericauua.org/programs/leadership-development/webinar-videos/2811-make-room-for-all>

3) Minister's Report – (J. Johnstone)*see attached report*

a) New Member Welcoming Breakfast and Service:

Jimmy and Sarah Bridges, Terry Hardley, Christian and Norah Gilbert, Michelle Washburn-Busk

b) Social Media reach and engagement is growing:

i) Facebook

ii) Opened Instagram account with assistance from Katie-Kingery Page, Marisa Larson

c) Caring Workshop- 13 attendees

i) Need another volunteer for coordinating Memorial service receptions

ii) Need volunteer for coordinating Transportation.

iii) Madilena Mendiola volunteered to start small group dinners

d) Love Reaches Out Workshop- October 20, 10-3:30, includes 3 congregations

i) Rev. Jonalu, Jessica, Jimmy, Deidre Greeley will represent UUFM.

ii) Other attendees of UUFM are welcome. Mark will be there as soon as he can get there. Kathleen is providing refreshments but does not plan to attend.

e) City Commission paying attention to housing issues

f) Looking at 9th grade center on Poyntz as potential social services center is school bond passes

g) Gather former board chairs to brainstorm moving forward

h) One-Time Path to Membership Classes- Nov 4, Jan 13, Mar 24, June 2

i) New: Monthly Adult RE Class at 9:30 am Sundays- Dec 2

j) Planning Christmas Eve Service

k) Want website updates to make is more mobile-friendly and modern. We need someone capable of doing that. Current website is on Wordpress, other options would be Squarespace or the like.

l) Prairie Star District UU Ministers' Retreat

m) UU Ministers' Association Guidelines Committee

n) Led Conveners' Training- Sunday, September 23

o) Met with UU members of joint Mennonite/UU task force

i) Brice Hobrock, Jessica Sievers, Kathleen Tanona

ii) Scott Tanona also attended and provided feedback

p) Membership/Stewardship Coordinating Meeting:

Jimmy Bridges, Shirley Hobrock, Jessica Sievers, Scott Tanona, Rev Jonalu Johnstone

q) Beloved Conversations workshop Dec 30, Nov 1 cancelled d/t not enough interest

4) DRE Report – S. Nelson

- a) September average attendance: 17
- b) Family Fun events- Trunk or Treat coming up
- c) Class programming: Quarter system using Themes, UUism, World Religions, Jewish/Christian heritage. Classroom splits: Pre-K & K, 1-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12 (independent study)
- d) Parent Night Out- Nov & Dec will probably take younger kids because of holidays
- e) Teen Lunch in flux
- f) 2018-19 class planning/organization/lesson plans
- g) Service for all ages programming
- h) Curriculum review/teacher recruiting
- i) Idea of Third Place
- j) NurseryCoordinatorAttendant - update? May not need one as there are usually parents in the nursery and/or volunteers.
- k) Sandy is spending most of her time doing lesson plans for three classes. It is not terribly hard, but it is time consuming. Most material is not unique but most teachers have never presented any given class before.

5) Treasurer's Report – E. Martinson *see attached report*

- a) September Income and Expenses
- b) Pledging Update: about 40 pledges in from 80 members, including those who directly gave their pledges to Eli. We generally appear to be on track but it is always tough.
- c) Attended webinar on online fundraising, through midwest region.
- d) Kathleen remarks that we got all the paperwork through and we now have a Vanguard brokerage account so people can donate stock directly to UUFM.

6) Old Business: None

7) New Business: None

8) Mark moves to adjourn.

Next Meeting November 13th 7-8:30 pm