

UUCNH 2023 Mid-Year Congregational Meeting Minutes
January 29, 2023
12:00 p.m.

President Jen Suehr noted a quorum being present and called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m.

Opening Remarks

Jen Suehr opened the meeting by encouraging the congregation to celebrate small wins, appreciate how far we've come since the pandemic, and take a deep breath to prepare for what's next.

Green Sanctuary Update

Matt Mehalik discussed membership and participation in the Green Sanctuary team. The Church's Green Sanctuary accreditation was formally granted at the end of last year. The UUA's updated requirements included a focus on the community. Over the past 5 years, the team identified community partners and connections. These included HEARTH, the Hunger Garden, Allegheny County Clean Air Now, and more collaboration with local Native American groups. In addition to their work with these groups, the team also conducted an energy audit of the church in 2018. Many of these recommendations are included in the capital improvement plan.

Systemic Change Update

Liz Perkins began by giving some background information about the Systemic Change Team. This included reviewing the CAR document and discussing connections with PIIN, Faith in Action forums with other local congregations, and Fair districts PA. She described other projects their members have been working on, such as Get Out the Vote with the UUA, Vote Forward nationwide letter writing campaign, a sermon and workshop on racism and the racial wealth gap, and efforts to fix Harrisburg. The team welcomes new visitors and friends to join.

Capital Campaign Team Update

Robyn Travers announced the Capital Campaign raised nearly a million dollars. She reviewed the agreed upon plan and discussed prioritization of the items included within.

Joe Meier gave an update as to the progress to date. He noted that the silo masonry work is completed and the next items to begin work as soon as possible are the new roof on The Barn and Bellwood and the soffits of the silos. Projects to begin working on next include ADA initiatives, floor plan revisions, and the AC system.

Finance

Dennis Doubleday gave an update on Church finances. The savings in ministerial salary have been partly allocated to the UUA Fair Share contribution and Sunday Services Team to pay guest speakers as needed. Going forward, the Church will have to address the trends of compensation and fixed expenses outpacing revenue gains. Prior year surpluses and the Federal Payroll Protection Plan Program had been used to

make up the difference. The 2023 budget exhausted the remaining surplus. The Board must consider alternate revenue sources. There were no questions from the membership.

Stewardship

Jen Suehr reported on Stewardship. We do not currently have a stewardship committee. Jen encouraged the membership to get involved and contribute in small, but meaningful ways. She suggested a potluck or party for a pledge event. All those interested in contributing should contact the Board.

Contract Ministry Review

Jen Suehr gave a review of contract ministry. She took questions from the membership and asserted:

- The purpose of the Town Hall meeting held on January 22, 2023 was to gauge the congregation's support with the concept of a contract minister. The Board will meet tomorrow (January 30, 2023) to develop a task force to determine specific details.
- We will reach prospective ministers through our UUA contacts, including Rev. Sunshine.
- The Motion will pass with a simple majority vote, unless there is another Motion from the floor.
- There will be a second vote in the future to approve the final plan. The current vote is to obtain the Membership's approval to move forward with the plan to investigate contract ministry with a task force.
- There will be additional Town Halls in the future at other checkpoints.

Ballot: I support moving forward to explore contract ministry, with the understanding that the specifics still need to be worked out. [Yes / No]

MOTION, seconded, and passed.

Call for New Business

Robyn Travers noted that the Youth Group made over \$500 from today's soup sale and thanked the Membership for their support.

MOTION to adjourn, seconded, and passed.