



**SIERRA FOOTHILLS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 7 pm on Zoom

In attendance: Marsha von Dessonneck (President), Suzanne Borth (Vice President), Rev. Alex De Silva Souto (Minister) Mercedes McWilliams (Member at Large), Tom Frye (Member at Large), Amy Evans (Financial Officer), Hank Florence (Member at Large) Linda Mercurio (Secretary), and Jeff Chamberlain (Treasurer)

Meeting commenced at 7:05pm

Check-In and Lighting the chalice

- Hank shared opening words during the chalice lighting
- Amy agreed to provide opening words at the April Board of Trustees Meeting

Financial Reports Review

- Jeff reviewed February 2024 balance sheet.
- Noted that the process of moving accounts from Bank of America to Umpqua Bank continues.
- Current outlook for the fiscal year is to end with \$11K in deficit spending as compared to the \$20K projected. This is largely due to lower expenditures for Children and Youth Religious Education (CYRE) as a result of being without a Director of CYRE for a number of months.
- Board of Trustees (BOT) members thanked Jeff before he exited the meeting.

Review of Minutes – February 21, 2024 - BOT Meeting:

- Linda noted that she would need help from BOT in ensuring that the February 21, 2024 BOT Meeting Minutes are complete and correct.
- BOT members provided helpful input
- Mercedes to email Linda with a summary of Social Justice Committee happenings during the month of February.
- Linda to update the draft minutes, seek BOT approval via email before finalizing the minutes.
- Linda to send final minutes to Joan Lacktis to post on the mysfuu.org website, and save the final minutes in the BOT Google folder.

Thank you notes

- Marsha – Will send Barb Munn a thank you note for coordinating musicians.

New Director of Religious Education

- Linda reported that Joan Harris is off to a great start as SFUU's new DRE.
- The focus in CYRE through the end of May will be on service projects.
- The Summer Starts Program will return in June. This program provides SFUU members an opportunity to share a special interest, skill or talent with the children and youth during a single Sunday session.
- The CYRE committee will focus on reengaging SFUU families with the CYRE program and making the CYRE offerings known throughout the SFUU service area.

Reestablishment of the Committee on Ministry

- Hank reported that SFUU member, John Bowman is interested in participating in the Committee on Ministry (COM). John has past experience working on the SFUU COM.
- Hank is also reaching out to other members.
- Suzanne shared that Kelly Chandler is also very interested in serving on the COM.
- Hank indicated that group intends to meet during the week of March 25, and he will report back with the proposed next steps.

Nominating Committee

- BOT reviewed who will be available and willing to serve an additional year on the BOT if nominated to serve during the July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025 Fiscal Year.
- Linda was a member at large during the 2022-2023 fiscal year, and Secretary during the 2023-2024 fiscal year. She does not wish to serve on the BOT during the 2024-2025 fiscal year.
- Mercedes has one year remaining in her two year term as a Member at Large
- Hank served a total of three years as a Member at Large (one two-year term) plus a one year extension. He will not be on the slate for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.
- Marsha will finish her second one-year terms as President and will not be on the slate during the 2024-2025 FY.
- Tom is completing his two year term and will not be on the slate during the 2024-2025 FY.
- Suzanne is open to serving as President for the 2024-2025 FY, if nominated and elected.
- Amy is open to serving in some capacity during the 2024-2025 FY, if nominated and elected.

Non-Violent Communication Workshop

- Marsha reported that John and Val Bowman plan to lead a Non-Violent Communication Workshop in the coming months. Date to be determined.

SFUU 101 Workshop

- Marsha reported that Val and John Bowman plan to conduct a three-part SFUU 101 series. Dates to be determined.

Committee Council Meeting

- Suzanne provided a recap of the Committee Council Meeting held after service on March 17.
- 24 people attended. This number included 12 committee chairs and 12 additional interested SFUU members.
- Each Committee Chair provided a status update, then shared goals and needs from the congregation.
- Overall, there was about capacity to have enough volunteers to conduct the work of each committee.
- There was also a lengthy discussion on the purpose and operation of COM.
- When it was noted that nobody from the CARE team attended, Rev. Alex suggested reaching out to Beryl Mayne and Karen Morse, moving forward, as they are both involved in the CARE Team

UU General Assembly –

- The UU General Assembly (GA) will take place on June 18 through 22 and will be completely online.
- So far, Joan Lacktis is the only SFUU member who has signed up to attend as a SFUU delegate. We may “send” up to three delegates
- **Marsha will seek interested parties via an upcoming weekly e-beacon**

Minister’s Report

- Rev Alex reported the following:
 - They attended the screening of “Isrealism” at the Auburn Public Library.
 - Rev Alex continues to work with Veterans for Peace, Democratic Socialists of America and Jews for Peace.
 - Veterans for Peace renewed their local chapter and are expected to submit an application to hold monthly meetings at SFUU.
 - Rev Alex plans to attend a retreat with UU Pacific Central District clergy during the week of March 15.
 - Rev Alex pointed out that the work of the Nominating Committee (NOM COM) and COM is ongoing now. They noted missed opportunities in the past to bring the minister into the formation and operation of the COM, NOM COM and Leadership Team.
 - Rev Alex acknowledged in some cases, emails incorrectly going to junk mail have been the issue, but this is not always the case.
 - Rev Alex also pointed out the importance of including the minister when identifying the members of a committee on which the minister serves.

- They think this also applies to other staff members such as the DRE and Administrator.
- Rev Alex recommended that the minister be included in the formation of, and given the opportunity to be an integral member of the COM, Nomination Committee (NOM COM), and Leadership Team.
- Hank noted that it was his understanding that Rev Alex did not wish to be part of the current COM, but he would welcome and value Rev Alex's involvement and contribution to this effort.
- Amy indicated that both the ministerial task force and Search Committee have talked about this issue and wanted Rev Alex to know that SFUU Leadership is reflecting on this cultural issue and how to do better moving forward.
- Rev Alex will be on a retreat during the week of March 25.

Committee Liaison Reports

- Social Justice Committee
 - Mercedes reported that the Auburn Congregational Church will no longer participate in Rise Against Hunger. The same goes for the Lutheran Church.
 - Social Justice Committee recommends that the Gathering Inn be the recipient of future share the plate proceeds, with an earmark to support a mobile temporary shelter.
 - Mercedes shared that UU the vote had an initial meeting. Focus will be on letter writing during the 2024 election season.
 - Mercedes also shared an update from the Placer People of Faith Together (PPOFT) regarding a new location in Roseville to house the Homeless Advocacy Group.

SFUU Camping Trip

- Amy reported that there is very little interest in the May camping trip. She plans to cancel the trip.
- Amy will gauge interest in an autumn trip.

Audio-Video Tech Team

- Amy noted that due to vacations and travel, we may be challenged to have enough volunteers to operate the AV table each Sunday during the summer months.
- Discussed challenge of large screen appearing washed out. Amy is looking for a shade to cover the window adjacent to the screen. Rev Alex has already increased the brightness on the projector.

ACTION Items Review

- Linda reviewed action items that are shown in the minutes above in red font.

Right Relations

- BOT members checked in to confirm that all felt heard and respected.

Executive Session

- Rev Alex exited the meeting, before the BOT entered into an Executive Session to hear and discuss the status of the Search process for SFUU's next minister.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 17 at 7pm on ZOOM

Meeting Adjourned at 8:50pm

Bike Rack:

- **Bylaw Revision**