

Harrisonburg Unitarian Universalists Board of Directors
October 13, 2024, 12 noon, HUU Office

1) Greeting/Welcome/Check-in

Reading: "It's the first day of autumn! A time of hot chocolatey mornings, and toasty marshmallow evenings, and, best of all, leaping into leaves!" —A.A./ Milne

2) Board Organizational Issues

a) Members present: Nancy Barbour, Joanna Hoover, Bill Weech, Rich Sider, Rev. Janet Onnie, Sandy Greene. (Notetaker)

b) Minutes of previous meeting approved with edits. Sandy moved to accept. Second by Nancy.

3) Next Board Meeting – November 10, 2024, Janet will be there, even though she preaches the 3rd Sunday in November.

4) Short-term Issues:

a. Leave of Absence for Paula Bennet

- i. Approval of Paula's message
- ii. Notifying the congregation
- iii. Message from the Board acknowledging Paula's leave, our appreciation of her work, and plan for coverage while she is gone
After discussion of these related issues, and approval of both Paula's and the Board's message, the Board decided that Nancy will ask Tom to send out the messages together by the end of this coming week. She will notify Paula of this beforehand, and will include Jo's and Sandy's contacts for people to call with questions.
***Subsequent Note 10/14/24* This announcement will be postponed until Monday October 21, to allow for Paula's scheduled sermon on Oct 20th, without this complication.**

Sandy will take the lead right away in personally notifying by phone the families and CRE volunteers, Maeve and Abby for the JMUU's, and then the chairs of each of the committees and teams. She will listen, refer to the posted documents, reassure that we can all work together to keep HUU's programs going strong for four months. Including:

Stable and consistent CRE, using Soul Matters, leaning on our volunteer leaders for continuity, Board discussion reinforced the need to continue CRE for the children in their own space, and potentially the Minute for all Ages story focused on children – sometimes the most accessible theology. We anticipate that Maeve and the JMUU's will be gone for most of December and some of January.

- b. Other ideas proposed by Sandy for the coming months and during Paula's leave
A tree of light in front of the church with the recognition of other faiths lights (Sandy will talk to Bill Howe about this). A Valentine's Day Friday event.
- c. Report from Reverend Onnie
Written report and schedule previously submitted
 - i. She will lead a Christmas Eve Service on December 24 afternoon
 - ii. She will work with team leaders on ideas for involving the kids
 - iii. Hopes to teach a course for us on UU-ism for adults during her stay.
- d. Report from the Shared Ministry Team – no report, as the meeting is tomorrow. There was discussion on the structure and function of the SMT, with the thought that the leave of absence represents an opportunity to practice shared ministry leadership together with the committee chairs
- e. Report from Finance Committee – Rich. Previously submitted
- f. Feedback from Kim:
 - i. Screen view of Zoom participants
The Board discussed and decided: "We would like to give Kim's ideas a chance. People's faces showing only when there is expected zoom congregation participation, including Joys, arrival and farewell, community dialog". Sandy will bring up at SMT tomorrow. ***Subsequent Note: Sandy did so on 10/14)**"

5) Long term issues:

- a. Next steps with goals
 - i. The next goal – "Identify priority action items for Sunday Services" – focus on what we want to accomplish in light of this goal for the coming year. After discussion, the Board agreed to schedule an extended planning meeting in January to address this goal and other priorities. Nancy will send out some suggested dates.
- b. Merle's suggestion re: CRE. Rev Onnie reported little traction for the idea of getting rid of child centric CRE for kids within UUA. Nancy reinforced the developmental needs of kids.

6) Miscellaneous:

- a. We need better wheelchair access to the sidewalk. Likely this would be a concrete pad 10 x 20 connected to the sidewalk. The Building and Grounds Committee is getting quotes.
- b. Burned out Outdoor lights for CRE building and back door from kitchen. Rich will follow up on this.