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**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH  
OF BELFAST**

2022-2023

**ANNUAL REPORT**

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37 MILLER STREET, BELFAST, MAINE 04915 - 207.338.4482 - [UUBELFAST.COM](http://UUBELFAST.COM)

## UUCB Tech Team

This year our Annual Report is lovingly and gratefully dedicated to our incredible Technology Installation Team with a special acknowledgment to



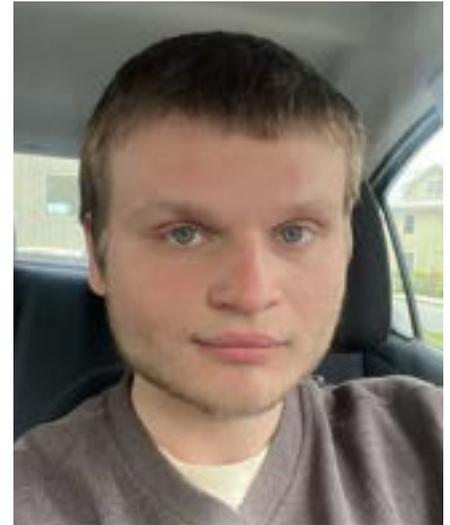
Mike Hickcox, who has become the unofficial UUCB Tech guru. The tech team also includes Cayla Miller, Dean Anderson, Jeffrey Mabee, Dan Avener, and Miles Littlefield, all of whom have shouldered the heavy burden of bringing our dreams of a truly inclusive community one step closer to reality.



In the fall of 2020, it became clear that if we were ever to remain one congregation, accessible and open to all, our current technology would have to evolve. Through the early months of the pandemic, we realized that there were severe gaps in our ability to provide welcome and equal participation for all of our beloved community, and that no matter what happened with the virus, we never again wanted folks to feel left out of this circle.

Thus began an over 2-year journey toward the incredible technology upgrade we have been enjoying these past few months. It started in 2020 with an upgrade made possible by a generous matching donation campaign from anonymous

donors offering to match up to \$5000.00 for us to reach the \$10,000 goal to install new screens and purchase very basic equipment so that we could welcome folks in person and online. Now, thanks to another generous donation, we have a state-of-the-art audio visual system that equalizes participation and creates opportunities for creativity and sharing heretofore unexperienced at UUCB.



I cannot calculate the number of hours, expertise and sheer determination these folks put in

to give us a world in which the boundaries between those who can be in person and those who cannot, could dissolve. In the early days, Cayla Miller and Mike Hickcox worked what seemed like magic each Sunday with duct tape and paperclips to keep us all together. Mike especially, Cayla, Jeffrey, Dean and Dan spent hours in consultation and hanging monitors, running wires, climbing ladders, receiving, and inventorying packages, reviewing equipment options, checking and rechecking orders, problem solving and troubleshooting. Did I mention, they also built a whole new tech booth. In addition, we were blessed to find Miles Littlefield who said yes to this unknown job, our little tech experiment, and has now become the foundation for our multi-platform offerings. He and Mike are often huddled in the tech booth making sure our

experience is flawless. I am in awe of their ability to always remain calm, responsive, and absolutely and utterly capable.

This dedication is about how the dedication and generosity of a few can truly change things for an entire community. Please give these people a hug, a thank you, a pat on the back. Let them know they have brought us one step closer to living what we believe. Mike, Cayla, Jeffrey, Dean, Dan and Miles: We are better because of you.

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## President's Report

from Christi Goosman,  
22-23 Council President



Thank you all for putting your trust in me - I hope I was able to meet your expectations, and model leadership in a calm, efficient, light, and (mostly!) organized manner.

Your council accomplished many things this church year, including:

- Choosing proposals to benefit from the 20K “Dream Money” we were gifted
  - Completing a much needed By Laws review to bring our written document in line with our practice, including a change in our governance structure for your consideration at the annual meeting.
  - A retreat with a focus on communication that I hope is just the start to improvements in our connections with one another
- Offering to make ourselves more visible during services by doing the chalice readings
  - Continuing the tradition of a November “gratitude night”, giving many thanks to the many leaders that are part of our ministry and the work of the UUCB
  - Funding a youth choir
  - Working within Council and with other skilled and interested members to organize the annual budget drive, including the first dance party in a long time!
  - Discussion and feedback about Article II, which will be voted upon at GA
  - Supporting the Family Promise efforts and the Reparations Shared Plate proposal
  - Recognizing the need for a building task force to attend to what still needs to be finished in our building
  - Assigning some council members to begin to develop a media policy that is transparent and responsive to the changing technology of our modern age

I have said this before, but it is worth repeating, this past year’s Council, regardless of our differing opinions and perspectives, truly practices our first principle with each other, and it has been an energizing and refreshing year! All together, you have been a great model of a well-functioning council, and a testament to what volunteers can accomplish. Yes, as if we needed reminding, our many church leadership positions are filled by volunteers willing to give their time and talents to the necessary tasks.

Thank you Andrea Butler, Past President, for providing me guidance to ease into the role of President. Thank you Nancy Crooker, President Elect for your seemingly effortless and endless knowledge of procedure - you are the Queen of Robert’s Rules! Thank you Sarah Nicholson for your passion to make the financials transparent and easily understandable. Thank you Allison Morrill for providing such detailed minutes of our meetings even when you were far away in Mexico. Linda Buckmaster, thank you for your

lively ideas and creativity. Chris Wright, thank you for courageously asking the questions that we all were thinking, but were too afraid to ask, and also for agreeing to step up as President Elect. To those council

members who are finishing their term: Dan Kirchoff, thank you for your humor and knowledge - you will be missed on Council. And Tally Avener, thank you for your honesty and your many years of service on council and so many other areas of our church.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve this congregation that holds us, and that we hold dear.

With Love,  
Christi Goosman

## Minister's Letter



Dear UUCB,

Did we start this year with our Installation Service and Hootenany? I think we did. To me it feels like it's been years. It was just 9 short months ago that we danced in the street after a powerful service where we made promises to one another. Promises to dance together through whatever may come, for as long as it is healthy and right for us all. We promised to forgive one another when we stumbled, and to get on and off the dance floor as needed. We promised to cheer each other on, and learn new and complicated steps when we can. We promised to hold close to one another while also respecting each person's own dance space. We laughed and sang and cried and were thankful. So very thankful.

Your council chose Emerging Joy as our Stewardship Theme this year for good reason. We have been emerging and it has been joyful. We have been emerging and it has also been hard. There has been great loss, there has been grief and fear and anger over the state of the world and our own personal circumstances. There has been illness and uncertainty, there has also been birth and celebration, milestones met, and journeys planned. Things that were put off for years are finding their way back onto our calendars and it is weird and exciting and unsettling all at once.

You'll see in the entirety of this report so much of the work that has been done by committees and individuals. I won't repeat it here, though I know something will inevitably get missed. I also know that you all can feel it. We've been busy in all the best ways.

If you'd like more details about what specifically I've been up to this year, here is a link to all of my detailed Minister Reports which I send to the Council and COM each month:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1I5roMp3xAcxdW8ra98S5hElxKe37viYE?usp=sharing>

My big takeaways as your Minister in 2022-2023 are these:

1. Learning how to use our covenant well and wisely must be a top priority in our work together for the coming year.
2. Continuing to think about how we can be in service, how we can live what we preach, how we can welcome and widen our circle is life giving work.
3. We are truly engaging in Shared Ministry; we are partners in the mission of this church. I am grateful every single day for church leaders and lay folk who bring their talents, their time, and their treasure to this work.
4. I still unequivocally believe in Unitarian Universalism as a vehicle for healing and hope. I love this religion.
5. I want to keep dancing with you.

Blessings and Hugs to you all,

Rev. Amy

## Worship Arts

Worship Arts Team : Kerri Vacher, Chair, Rev. Amy Fiorilli, Minister, Ellie Daniels, Choir Director, Cayla Miller, RE Coordinator, Margi Pulkingham, Marsha Donahue, Ivy Lobato, Susan Coe, Jacquie Robb

This year has been a time of re-emergence. We've especially seen that in relation to Sunday mornings. Our in-person attendance has steadily increased week by week with some highs in the low 100s. Your Worship team has been adapting to the increased numbers with joy, while also striving to keep the experience meaningful and rich for online participants as well. This year we added 2 new worship associates in Jacquie Robb and Marsha Donahue, both of whom have already added so much creativity and depth to our endeavors. We drafted a new Anti-Racist Acknowledgement statement, we implemented Council Member readings of the Chalice Lighting, we've incorporated our new church covenant into the affirmation rotation, and we have reinstated the welcome and introduction to visitors at the top of our service. We also began designing and printing gorgeous new OOWs each week thanks to Susan Coe. We've had fun and unique children's stories, skits, and songs. We've invited varied speakers from the congregation to participate in worship and look forward to making that an even greater priority in the coming year. Each month your worship team has gathered to review, problem solve, brainstorm, support one another and the worship life of UUCB. We hope you have been nourished by our weekly offerings, inspired by the beautiful music, the messages, the collaboration, and creativity we have tried to bring.

## Committee On Ministry

This year we continued evolving by defining what the COM is and does, starting with rewriting our Mission Statement: to support and nourish the health and growth of the shared ministry of our church for its members, friends, and minister. Next we adopted the UUCB covenant as our own, with the addition of saying we will practice confidentiality in a way that serves the whole and protects the individual.

And finally, we delineated the tasks and responsibilities of the COM. For much of the year we focused on connection and reconnection. For several years Covid had a striking effect on our church, resulting in fewer face-to-face meetings. Yes, we're definitely grateful for Zoom, yet there often wasn't the same level of participation in church activities. So we decided to address that in several ways.

Since January our monthly newsletter has included an article describing the four spiritual exploration groups the church offers: Thursday Conversations, weekly Seasoned Souls, monthly Soul Matters, and the Wellspring course. For February, March, and April we organized 6 groups, averaging eight people each, to meet for Cuisine/Conversation/Connection dinners, with different people in each group so as to meet more people. Wonderful food and delightful conversation!

In March we presented "Oops and Ouch! How to Use Our Covenant" in a Sunday congregational conversation. We plan to organize more ways for people to understand and become comfortable using the covenant. Then in April and May COM members sought individual conversations with those we hadn't seen for a while - curious, missing them, and wanting to reach out to reconnect. We also began the process of updating our disruptive behavior policy, which will include forming a team to intervene in difficult situations, arranging for training, and determining a conflict resolution process.

We appreciate the honor of serving you. Please reach out to any of us if you have concerns or suggestions regarding the health of our church - our Beloved Community.

Blessings,

Debbie Bailly, chair; Dean Anderson, Amy Fiorilli, Jeffrey Mabee, Kathy Muzzy, Patty Smith, and Anna Wood-Cox

## Choir

Do you remember COVID? Silly question- I know you do. But as I sit in our beautiful sanctuary, complete with ZOOM and sound technology, full of singing and open faces in the Spring of 2023, I can easily forget that it was empty, with a few exceptions, for more than two full years! And then, as the congregation trickled back, we pondered the risks of singing together, and whether to remain masked, and what risks should or shouldn't be left to individuals. In the Summer of 2022, the Choir undertook the challenge to come together in preparation for Reverend Amy's installation. We had six or seven steadfast singers who tolerated Summer

heat coupled with masks to start to reawaken our vocal chords. As COVID quieted, we surveyed the Congregation and then the Choir to explore our current feelings about letting go of the mask mandate. We

met our Choir's goal of more than 85% of us feeling comfortable with a mask-optional policy. In September, a joyous and energetic Choir of 22 sang and celebrated with Reverend Amy at her installation.

Then we settled down to the work of real rebuilding. We lost our few male voices this year, necessitating a reworking of music to accommodate a female Choir. In December, Sarah Nicholson became our Choir Assistant, bringing support and opening more possibilities for us. This past Winter and Spring, the Choir has

rebuilt and melded together into a thriving group of seventeen, finding our balance, learning a growing repertoire, and feeling the solid embrace of singing in community.

Alleluia and Blessed Be!

Ellie Daniels, Choir Director

## Children's Religious Exploration & Faith Formation Team

Faith Formation Advisory Team Members: Jane Dopheide-Chair, Cayla Miller, Rev. Amy Fiorilli, Susan Coe

The FFAT has been actively involved in supporting our RE Coordinator Cayla in her extraordinary efforts to establish parent connections and re-build our programming for children and youth. Cayla has demonstrated deep commitment and creativity throughout the year in all the activities she describes in her report. It has been a pleasure to partner with her in this important community building work.

In addition to regular RE programming, the team has been working on two additional projects. First, a five day Chalice Camp is being offered in August for children 4-12 to help build family connections through a variety of hands-on activities. Second, Phase 1 of the playground/gathering area project is moving forward to make the space inviting, safe and accessible for both children and adults this summer. The Team will move forward with Phase 2 to equip the space with creative and accessible equipment and seating next year.

Jane Dopheide, Chair

### **RE Coordinator Update:**

We're making some really great progress towards re-growing our RE program. We've welcomed several new families, and have enjoyed seeing familiar faces return as well. We've been operating in the "one-room schoolhouse" format this year, with all ages together. We've been utilizing the two adjoining rooms, the classroom with the nursery next door, so younger ones or those who would rather move their bodies can

play with toys, while still being involved as we do an activity in the classroom. We've been focusing on community and connection this year. I strongly believe that if the children make friends and bond, and feel safe and welcome here, that is the best thing for our church, and for them! We do art projects and simple lessons with the group, check in together, and light a chalice each week. We've had a drumming

workshop, several climate action related activities, and some really great discussions on all sorts of topics, from apologies and what reparations means, to how we care for the earth.

I've also been focusing on supporting parents, caregivers, and families as a whole. I want our church to be a home base, and a soft landing place for families. To that end, we've been offering family breakfasts, and free childcare evenings monthly.

I've been building a "Parenting Library" in the RE wing with books about child development, parenting, exploring identity, UU parenting philosophy (of course there are MANY perspectives!), and more. Please feel free to stop by and borrow anything you'd like.

Next year, I look forward to getting a Youth Group/Coming of Age program going for ages 11-18, as well as continuing to build upon our momentum from this year in RE. Guides and mentors are always welcome to join us, even if you're new to it! I also hope to start up a parent support group, and support a community driven childcare co-op initiative that's been suggested.

## Anti-Racism Team

The UUCB Anti-Racism Team has evolved over the course of this year. Its membership is rather fluid, and project based rather than in the usual committee formation. Over the year we've had several people involved in various projects from Anti Racist Book Groups to the Reparations Proposal being voted on at our May Annual Meeting. Our core members are Kathy Muzzy, Ridgely Fuller, Heather Campbell and Rev. Amy.

We've also had a great deal of participation and planning done with Debbie Bailly, Neal Jacobs, Nancy Crooker, Christina St. Pierre, and Christi Goosman. With many more people participating in our offered events.

The Anti Racism Team is committed to education and action on a variety of topics and initiatives related to eradicating oppressive systems in our own hearts, minds, and institutions.

We have sponsored a well-attended training on Reparations. We have held 4 book groups, our minister co facilitates and monthly Anti-Racism Collaborative Conversation with the Ellsworth and Castine UU Churches. We have created and led a dynamic worship service on the topic of Reparations and supported our member Ridgely in her own service in which she shared her own journey to the deep south and all that she learned there. We put together an information packet with many resources so people could learn more about Reparations and Reclamation practices related to our Shared Plate Proposal.

There is so much exciting work to be done in becoming a true ally to our siblings of color. We have so much to learn, and we will fail, but we will not stop trying to become good partners in the work to dismantle systems of white supremacy everywhere.

## Climate Action Committee

Members: Debbie Bailly, Corliss Davis, Cris Hughes, Morten Moesswilde, Marje Stickler

We want to acknowledge with sadness the loss of our member Bill Fergusson. He added great enthusiasm, dedication, and drive to all of our efforts. We miss him deeply.

Accomplishments over the past year include:

- The congregation endorsed the Energy Innovation and Climate Dividend Act at our annual meeting on May 22, 2022. The CAT followed up with letters announcing the action that appeared in the Bangor Daily News, Free Press, and Republican Journal in June. Similar letters were also sent to Sens. Susan Collins and Angus King and to Rep. Jared Golden.
- Bill Fergusson began contacting Rotary Clubs around the state on behalf of the Citizens Climate Lobby to explain and promote the EICDA.
- Debbie Bailly served as the liaison between the church and SolarLogix for the installation of three heat pumps approved by the congregation at the annual meeting. Heat pumps were installed in September.
- Corliss and Marje participated in the Seasons of Care lunch programs sponsored with St. Margaret's Episcopal Church and St. Francis Catholic Church in September.
- In September, Debbie proposed a survey of the congregation on environmental and climate concerns. She and Cris Hughes ultimately developed the text with extensive review and input from the committee. Rev. Amy gave permission to use the Survey Monkey account and Bill Fergusson entered the first draft. After several revisions, we hope to send out the survey to the congregation in May.
- The CAT began an occasional series of articles in the church newsletter and UUBB. Topics covered so far include composting options and the benefits of the Inflation Reduction Act. The CAT donated a large basket of "green" household items for the basket fundraiser held by the church council on Oct. 19.
- Cris worked with Cayla on sessions with the children about climate change. The first session was held in December.
- The CAT agreed to sponsor a program about a consumer-owned utility for Maine and MUUSAN's endorsement of the Our Power ballot initiative. Corliss arranged publicity. The program with speaker Jill Linzee from the Midcoast UU Fellowship in Damariscotta was held after the service on March 26. A total of 30 people attended, both in person and on Zoom.
- After a request from Dinner Anywhere in the World coordinator Anna Wood-Cox for an evaluation of carbon offset programs, the CAT decided to recommend that Anna donate funds instead to Maine Youth for Climate Justice (<https://www.maine-youth-for-climate-justice.org/>) . Anna agreed and a donation will be sent.

- Future projects under development: community composting

## Caring Committee

The Caring Circle's mission is to provide support to members of our congregation when they are coping with some of life's unexpected challenges. The Caring Circle takes into consideration the individual needs of our members and friends of the congregation who need support. Each of us is comforted in a variety of ways, so the Caring Circle considers these differences when providing support. Some of us are more private than others, some only ask for minimal support, some welcome the support of many, and are very public about their needs. The Caring Circle thinks about the dignity and confidentiality of each person who requests support from this committee.

This year, we have coordinated meals for several members/friends who have been care taking, grieving or dealing with medical issues. We've assisted with transportation to medical appointments as well. The Caring Circle has also supported members/friends of the congregation by assisting with Memorial services. Sending cards is another way we reach out to support and celebrate changes in the lives of our community. We also created a visitors' team who have had weekly or monthly contact with members of our community dealing with transitions. We welcomed a new member to our committee, Mandi Thomas. As a committee we continue to explore ways to support this wonderful and complex community.

We are all grateful to be a part of this committee,

Kathy Muzzy, Chair  
Nancy McAlley  
Tally Avener  
Chris LeGore  
Dean Anderson  
Mandi Thomas  
Rev. Amy Fiorilli

## Building Use Group (BUG)

The BUG now consists of Jan Anderson and Dean Anderson, Kit Thomson Crossman, Rev. Amy Fiorilli, and Cayla Miller. BUG takes guidance and input from our Custodian, Lynne O'Connor, who is often the first eyes on any problem that arises. The BUG oversees the management of our building both allocating UUCB space for our various committees and outside renters, as well as maintaining a clean, safe, comfortable and accessible space for the UUCB Community.

BUG also oversees general building maintenance including heating system, plumbing, pest control, and various repairs as needed. This year has been fairly uneventful on the repair side of things, which is a good thing! We even survived the - 40 weather without incident! We did lose our Wayside Pulpit in a winter storm, and are grateful to Wade Ambrose for building us a new one! We've purchased and will soon install better

door stops, and will be making fire exits more clearly marked upstairs. Cayla attended a conference in Augusta focusing on keeping houses of worship safe in our times. We are due for a five year sprinkler system inspection, which will be completed soon.

On the rental side of things, activity has increased dramatically. We have had a very busy spring so far. Art installations, theater rehearsals, two busy choirs, Girl Scouts, Restorative Justice circles, and of course our own committee meetings and church activities moving more and more in person. We are now actively advertising our space as a wedding venue, and hope to start booking weddings soon! We also hope to host the Pen Bay Orchestra this winter.

Jan Anderson

Dean Anderson

Cayla Thompson Miller (Chair April 2021 - June 2022)

Rev. Amy Fiorilli

Kit Thomson Crossman (Chair June 2022 -)

## Finance Committee

The Finance Committee consists of Marty Daniels (Chair), John Krueger, and Roger Lee. We meet once a month with Sarah Nicholson (Treasurer) and Amy Fiorilli (Minister) to review the monthly Treasurer's Report, respond to events within the church that impact our finances, and prepare the budget for the next year.

This year was very calm compared to the past several years. We did not have any significant changes in staffing this year; we received the second \$100,000 gift from the UUA which allowed us to upgrade the technology in our sanctuary; we are meeting in person with choir music and children's activities; in short, we are sailing along quite smoothly!

This smooth sailing is the result of a lot of hard work leading up to this year. In particular, we needed to systemize our hiring, compensation, and benefit practices, all of which is now in place. We also had two large gifts that we needed to make decisions about, and the Finance Committee was a big part of those discussions. And of course we did a lot of pivoting as the pandemic continued.

Many, many thanks to Sarah Nicholson, our Treasurer, for improving the monthly statements and presenting them in a way we could all understand. In addition, she led the effort to understand and put in place all the benefits our staff is eligible for. Many thanks also to John Krueger for his six years of service on this committee. He was never shy about voicing his concerns and opinions. Every committee should have a member like that! We are particularly thankful for his research into the UUA endowment investment fund, where our endowment is now generating a steady return. We will miss you!

Respectfully submitted by Marty Daniels

# Nominations - Slate of Candidates

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE SLATE OF CANDIDATES

### FOR THE 2023-2024 CHURCH YEAR

#### Church Council

**President Nancy Crooker**

**Vice-President Chris Wright**

**Secretary Allison Morrill (to confirm appointment; term ends June 2024)**

**Treasurer Sarah Nicholson (one year, to align term to new Bylaws)**

**Members at Large 1 \* Marsha Donahue (two years; term ends June 2025)**

**Margie Pulkingham (two years; term ends June 2025)**

**Karen Wigglesworth (one year; term ends June 2024)**

**Finance Committee Chris Legore (three years; term ends June 2026)**

**Legacy Giving Committee Joanne Boynton (second three-year term; ends June 2026)**

**Committee on Ministry Debbie Bailly (second three-year term; ends June 2026)**

**Kathy Muzzy (second three-year term; ends June 2026)**

**Nominating Committee Rick Davis (second three-year term, ending June 2026)**

**Maret Knight (two years; term ends June 2025)**

**Christi Goosman (one year; term ends June 2024)**

#### Staff:

Minister:

[Rev. Amy Fiorilli](#)

Religious Exploration Coordinator:

[Cayla Thompson Miller](#)

Office Administrator:

[Cayla Thompson Miller](#)

Bookkeeper:

[Jacqui Lee](#)

Custodian:

Lynne O'Connor

Technology Operator:

[Miles Littlefield](#)

Music Director:

Ellie Daniels

## Council:

President: Christi Goosman	President Elect: Nancy Crooker	Minister: <a href="#">Reverend Amy Fiorilli</a>
Treasurer: Sarah Nicholson	Past President: Andrea Butler	<i>Secretary: Allison Morrill</i>
<b>Council At-Large:</b> <b>Tally Avenier</b> <b>Linda Buckmaster</b> <b>Chris Wright</b> <b>Dan Kirchoff</b>		

## Committee Chairs:

Worship Arts:	<a href="#">Kerri Vacher</a>
Solstice Committee:	<a href="#">Joanne Moesswilde</a>
Faith and Renewal:	<a href="#">Linda Buckmaster</a>
Faith Formation (RE)	<a href="#">Jane Dopheide</a>
Committee On Ministry:	<a href="#">Linda Bowe</a>
Landscape Committee:	
Building Use Group (BUG):	Kit Thomson Crossman
Finance Committee:	<a href="#">Marty Daniels</a>
Caring Circle:	<a href="#">Kathy "Muzz" Muzzy</a>
Climate Action Team:	Corliss Davis
Social Action Committee:	<a href="#">Corliss Davis</a>

**Budget Reports:** [Please click here to read.](#)

Open Meeting & Welcome – Andrea Butler, Council President

Refers to mailing

Instructions for voting for people on zoom and contributing to discussions

Member Roll Call/Quorum – Susan Coe, Council Secretary

28 in sanctuary, 25pp on zoom, 0 absentee

Quorum met

Chalice Lighting – Susan Coe, UUCB Council Secretary

Electing a Moderator – Andrea Butler, Council President

Nominated Debbie

Nancy Crooker motion to nominate Debbie Bailly as moderator, Jacqui 2 nd , majority yes

Meeting turned over to Debbie

Call to order - 11:22 am

Rick Davis parliamentarian for Roberts' Rules of Order through the meeting

Procedures

Review of pertinent points re: Robert's Rules

No count for votes unless it looks close; a majority from voting members in the sanctuary and on zoom will mean the voting measure has passed

Spokespersons for each topic, followed by questions, then seek a motion, then have debate

Reading of the New Covenant – Anna Wood-Cox, COM Member

Reference to covenant slide

Background

covenant process came about in an effort to update and shorten current one

information collected at cottage meetings

COM took all feedback and created the new covenant

Reading of the new covenant

Vote

o Motion made by – Linda Buckmaster

o 2 nd

o Vote – majority – covenant accepted

EICDA Legislation - Climate Action Team

Resolution - Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act Legislation – HR2307

Cris Hughes from Climate Action Team

What led up to this

o Survey by SAC showed climate change is a top priority of our congregation

o Climate Action Team formed and has been successful by joining a community solar farm and

installing heat pumps to heat and cool the church

o Fees steadily increasing on coal, oil and gas; returns revenue equally to participating

households

o Best possible way to lower carbon emissions

Words of the resolution - see attached pdf

UUCB endorses this or any subsequent legislation with the same effort

Vote

Chip Austin motion to accept resolution

Corliss Davis second

Vote – majority – resolution passes

Dream Money Proposals - Andrea Butler, Council President

Monies from our first \$100K gift at end of 2020: 80% went to endowment; 20% left available to better our building or make our community better in alignment with our principles

At beginning of this year, Council went through process of accepting proposals, and have selected three of those to go forward:

Heat pumps on first floor in offices and hospitality/meeting room (\$10K) (Corliss Davis)

Playground development and equipment (\$7K) (Jane Dopheide)

Soup/salad dinners open to the community at holidays or other designated times of the year (\$3K) (Lake Quatrala)

Will vote on a measure to do all three (vs. separately) - more info in mailing sent earlier and attached Questions

Electricity used for heat pumps will be countered by solar farm membership

Will playground be open to the public – not determined yet; task force will be developed to make all decisions; will be put where Helping Hands' playground was on side of building; liability will also be investigated by the task force

No questions on dinner proposal

Vote

Motion to accept 3 proposals – Cliff Rugg

Second

Discussion – same presenters will respond to discussion/questions

o Solar panels

Were solar panel considered during discussion of heat pumps

Not directly - previous research told us geographical positioning of our building not conducive to solar

Heat pumps much more efficient and cost effective to rid of fossil fuels – this is a big part of the governor's plan

Air purification is filtered built into the heat pumps – not the primary purpose

As a small business, eligible for large rebate from CMP

o Playground

Does budget include funding for liability of the playground this year

Will it be ready this year? - we hope ground cover done relatively soon; more work after

on actual equipment and will look into liability coverage then we still have insurance on the playground – never changed after Helping Hands left; however it was their insurance that covered the liability

o Dinners

Will dinners be catered or potluck – how will the food be provided

Volunteers will cook in our kitchen

Many variations done of this over the years

Food will be purchased if donations from farms don't line up with date/time of year of dinners

Whatever can't be donated (music, etc.) will be bought from the \$3K

Suggested to approach the GBAM food cupboard

o Member pointed out that she was away when nominations on the use of the money were accepted, but she really wished some of the money would go toward further care of the piano beyond tuning two times per year.

o Was lifespan of the projects discussed by the Council – there is no expiration date but trust projects will be completed in due time

Proposed to cut the debate cut off (Linda Buckmaster), second, no objection

Vote on three projects – majority so all three proposals passed

Technology Upgrade – Andrea Butler, Council President

Money for this coming from the second \$100K gift in conjunction with the legacy campaign

Features

Better sound quality,

hide tech operator screen,

interactive,

at least one new camera,

allows live sound in sanctuary to be much better quality on zoom

Vote

Motion to accept proposal for funding of the tech upgrade – Anna Wood-Cox,

2 nd Marty Daniels

Discussion/Debate

o \$32K is cost for:

Zoom needs camera, microphone and screen

Extended software

Go from zoom room to control room to seamlessly be together on zoom or in congregations

Need audio mixer for PA system

Video switcher

3 monitors

2 computers

Monitor speakers

o Can be handled by one operator but better to have two – one on audio and one on video

o Quality for singing – have two audio systems – one for zoom (with microphone), and one for live (not with microphone) so we will have a direct audio presence

o Ventilation in sound room will be improved

o Was there any other location considered for the sound room

loss of kitchenette important when want to have large event in sanctuary

also hold fellowship gatherings upstairs

where make provision for kitchenette – another space was not available

no big sink upstairs – perhaps 2 nd upstairs bath be converted into kitchenette

appreciation for Mike Hickox expressed; also Dean Anderson and Jeffrey Mabee

up to the committee to take these concerns and address them

Vote

- o End debate – no objections, adopted
- o Majority passed spending \$32K on the technology upgrade

Slate of Nominees – Rick Davis, Nomination Committee Chair

We are a self-governing organization, responsible for all policies, time, talent, treasure – thanks to those have served and agreed to serve in the future

Some openings left – effort will be made to fill these

People to be elected for: Council, finance committee, legacy giving, nominating committee, Committee on Ministry

See attachment for nominees

Vote

Rick made motion to adopt slate as presented

Second –

No nominations from the floor

No objections

Slate passed by majority

2022/2023 Budget Vote – Sarah Nicholson, Treasurer

Features

See attachment of proposed budget and annual finance report

Highlights of budget

Pledges still being accepted

Fundraising – not much change

Staff/right sizing

Fair compensation practice for staff and minister

Small increase to UUA dues

Decrease in expenses

Proposing smaller deficit than last year

Includes funding for Amy's installation as a designated fund

No intern

Will vote on final proposal

Full report is available

Discussion/Questions

No intern next year because there was no candidate

Clarification of Religious Education and Music budgets/staff level changes

- o Faith Formation team will be more active working with the new Coordinator to build and sustain the program
- o Music committee will take on tasks of a Music Director that won't be done by a Choir Director
- o Will now have an accompanist every Sunday

Vote

Motion to accept the budget – Chip Austin

Second – Tally Avener

## Discussion

- o Will there be enough congregational participation

- o Difficult for accompanist to work with choir without going to any rehearsals

- o Job descriptions being re-written and small ad-hoc team meeting to finalize them and send our

Vote – passed by majority vote

Closing Words – Rev. Amy Fiorilli

Adjournment 12:47pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Coe

UUCB Council Secretary

## Legacy Giving

As of April 3rd this year, UUCB has received a total of \$771,300 in cash, securities and pledges toward its goal of establishing a \$1M endowment fund. We also received an additional \$87,500 in current gifts.

Wow. Spectacular!

On behalf of the Legacy committee - Michael Bowie, Joanne Boynton and myself - we thank everyone who made this possible. Contributions came in all sizes. This confirms my belief that UUCB's future is in good hands.

A bit of history: The campaign began with a challenge gift of \$100,000 for UUCB to establish an endowment for its future needs. Every new gift and pledge released a share of the challenge. We are getting closer to meeting that goal.

With help from Allison Morrill and Cayla Miller the committee produced a brochure to inform and inspire our members to participate in whatever way toward UUCB's future security. The results were warmly welcomed. Our goal was for members to see the evidence of their collective commitment to UUCB values.

But we are not done. We will continue to receive contributions. Looking forward, we will renew our campaign this fall.

Finally, I want to take a moment to emphasize that UUCB's Legacy is made up of not only the treasure, but also the time and effort contributed by each of us doing what we can to create a future of hope, which is love in action.

