(DRAFT) MINUTES OF THE UCM COMMITTEE OF CHAIRS MEETING, JAN. 17, 2023 6:30-8 P.M.

Hybrid meeting (ZOOM & in-person) Attending: Reverend Joan Javier-Duval, Donia Prince, Emily Seifert, Harris Webster, Fran Dodd, Steve Finner, Liz Benjamin, Janet and John Poeton, Judith Hinds, Pat Carstensen, Peter Thoms, Scott Hess, Leslie Parr, Meredith Warner, Elaine Ball, Sandal Cate, Hugo Liepmann.

 Donia and Joan opened the meeting with a chalice lighting and a reading of a poem by Marjorie Ryerson.

1. Committee updates: (First names of speaker used)
2. Harris for Climate Action Team: They continue to share information via the e-news and tabling at coffee hour.
3. Fran for Governing Board as Financial Manager – She completed a financial review for the church covering primarily the past 2 years but also needed to go back several years for some information. This took a lot of time and her efforts were acknowledged.
4. Hugo for Governing Board – He updated the group on the heating system work, the hiring of Jason Kass as sexton and the search for a new church administrator. Balancing the budget is challenging. Many chalice circles are going well.
5. Steve for Denominational Resources group – They are working to inform the congregation about the Article 2 efforts of the UUA. They are planning how to send delegates to the GA in Pittsburgh this June.
6. Liz Benjamin for LSE – All programs are now functioning from Nursery to Chalice Circles. Much recruitment was done for teachers. Considering if/how to offer March Mystery Madness.
7. John for Community Lunch – They continue to hand out 75 lunches every Monday. Folks may eat inside during the winter. UCM may have to start preparing complete meals in the spring, and many volunteers are eager to help out. This service has lasted for 9 years!
8. Judith for Racial Justice – In the fall they promoted the Proposition 2 campaign. They will spearhead a spring reading of the UUA Common Read book. They chose the January community pouch recipient. Judith is also part of the search committee for the church administrator. They have some applicants.
9. Pat for Worship and Arts – She reflected on the late fall services which seem to have been well done and are bringing joy and engagement to the congregation.
10. Peter for UCM History – 13 CDs were donated to UCM by Sandy Vitzthum with sermons by her grandfather, Gerald Fitzpatrick. Peter also spoke for the Racial Justice Committee about the statewide effort to have towns/cities create a declaration of inclusion. The RJ group may support Montpelier’s efforts to embed one in the community.
11. Scott for the Finance Cttee – See report below. A strong committee is in place.
12. Janet for Community Pouch – They had many recommendations and most months are set for recipients. Janet also reported for the Holiday Fair which met its financial goal and spent less on anticipated expenses. Final total to be reported this winter.
13. Donia for Music Committee – The interdenominational effort in the fall went well and may foster a spring collaboration. There are new choir members and a very capable organ maintenance person who provided a fine history of our organ.
14. Leslie Parr for the Executive Team – (also see report below) – There will be a gathering of Chalice Circle participants on Friday, January 27 for a potluck and sharing of experiences.
15. Meredith for Racial Justice – The committee will host a program on Saturday, Feb. 11 including a meal and film in conjunction with Salon Black Walnut.
16. Elaine for Membership and Hospitality – Experienced volunteers have helped train newcomers in tasks for Sunday morning functions. New visitors to UCM are asking about ways to become involved. She will be certifying our membership number to the UUA. The most recent “New Member Sunday” was this fall.
17. Sandal for the Women’s Alliance – They have some new members. Programs have been attended by 15-25 people. They voted to keep the name as the Women’s Alliance though anyone is welcome to attend. Programs are now hybrid, though the potluck is still the BEST! Soup is being sold on the 2nd Sundays. They made a contribution towards Sam Rossier’s retirement gift.
18. Joan for the Adult LSE – Chalice Circles are going well. The Pastoral Care committee has a new member, and the Caring Network now is led by Paula Gills and Alona Tate.
19. Administrative update (Rev. Joan)

Sam Rossier has officially retired after 28 years of service. A small group coordinated a meaningful gift for him and his wife by soliciting donations and having cards and a Kudos Board for well wishes. The gift was presented on January 13. Sam will continue to assist with UCM finances on a contract basis until his successor is determined and in place.

Emily has created an explanation of the heating system and how it works, perhaps for folks to use as needed when holding meetings or gatherings? The option of installing some heat pumps is still being considered.

1. Leslie for the ET – They meet every two weeks. It would be great to have one Clarke Lecture offered in March. It will take a committee of dedicated people to use Nancy Schulz’s “manual” of how to organize a lecture. A few folks have offered to help. Claudia Clark finished her term with the ET so a new member is being sought. Suggestions are welcome of candidates to consider. Direct them to the ET.
2. Scott for Finance Cttee. – The committee will review our finance policies and will work with the new church administrator when chosen. All UCM committees need to submit their budgetary needs soon. There are many elements to planning the ’23-’24 budget. There will be a draft and then a final budget which will be posted prior to the May Annual Meeting for all members to consider. This ties in with the next report.
3. Plans for the Budget/Stewardship/Pledge Drive (exact title TBD.) Ansel Ploog of the GB is helping to lead this. It will start with a dinner on Friday, Feb. 10, and the drive will run from Feb. 12-March 12. The theme is “Renew, Nurture, Grow.” Pledge forms will be available at the dinner, in church and then mailed out as needed.
4. The C-o-C group reflected on some of the elements of the October meeting, especially focusing on gaining/retaining volunteers in all areas to help UCM meet its Mission Statement all throughout the year. Any and all suggestions to help keep the momentum going, continue “outreach” and to help re-establish traditional activities are always welcome!
5. Additional announcements:
6. Meredith said there are UUA regional meetings happening to move forward on UUA initiatives. See her for more information.
7. Elaine said there will be (was) a meeting of the Central East Region of the UUA which she (would? Did?) attend.
8. Our next C-o-C meeting will be on Tuesday, April 18. Steve Finner has volunteered to facilitate it.

Elaine shared the poem “The Clearing” as a part of our closing time. She kept a large diagram going that shows our church as a tree – with ongoing efforts as the “roots” and our hopes as the “branches.” Perhaps this will be available at coffee hours for others to view.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sandal Cate

Please send corrections to Sandal asap and she will re-submit a final copy to all. Thanks.