



CEDAR LANE

WHERE **LOVE** WORKS

CLUUC Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes July 19, 2022

Attendance

Officers: Bob Essink (President), Nate Hultman (Past President), Sandy Dawsey (Secretary), Nancy Janssen (Assistant Secretary), Jack Rodgers (Assistant Treasurer)

At-Large Members: Eduardo Hernandez, Mmamohau Tswaedi, John Dunn, Sandy Shaw, Stephanie Williams

Absent: Roger Santodomingo (President-Elect), Sandy Stalzer (Treasurer), Nancy Floreen, Marilyn Emery

Staff: Rev. Dayna Edwards, Jennifer Morley (Executive Director)

Guests: Jean Moyer, Linda Gianessi, Tanner Wray, Mary Means

Opening

The meeting began at 7pm. Rev. Dayna provided the centering words. Jack Rodgers read the Vision/Mission and the Board of Trustees Covenant. Bob welcomed and recognized the service of the Board Standing Committee and Task Force Chairs, including Jean, Linda, Tanner, Mary, several Board members and several Chairs who could not make the meeting.

Consent Agenda

Sandy D explained the function and importance of the Consent Agenda for the new Board members, and asked if there was any discussion of the current Consent Agenda. Sandy Shaw made a motion to approve the current Consent Agenda, and Eduardo seconded it. *All in favor.*

Update on the Congregational Name Change Process

Since neither Roger nor Sandy Stalzer (the two current members of the group planning this process) were not able to make the meeting, this item was deferred until the August Board meeting.

Update on the Financial Sustainability Task Force

Jean introduced the members of the FSTF, including: Peter Finn, Peter Henderson, Kathleen Knepper, Richard Nugent, Joe Merenda, Sandy Stalzer, Jean herself, and Jen Morley. She asked for suggestions for additional members who could make the TF more diverse, and Mmamohau volunteered to join the group. The Task Force recently had its first meeting, which included TF organization, the sharing of information and statistics from Cedar Lane, the Potomac Partnership and the UUA, and the beginning of brainstorming about how to put Cedar Lane on a better long-term financial trajectory. Future meetings will include more brainstorming about how we can increase revenue and expand our mission and impact, including some “outside the box” solutions for achieving financial sustainability. The TF is aiming to have a report to the Board by early fall. Eduardo made a motion to approve the membership of the Financial Sustainability Task Force, and it was seconded by Sandy Shaw. *All in favor.*

Becoming a UUSJ Partner Congregation

Tanner Wray made a presentation advocating that Cedar Lane become a Partner Congregation Member with UUSJ. He reviewed the history that Cedar Lane has long been a partner and member of UUSJ, but that UUSJ has now reorganized itself from being a largely regional (Mid-Atlantic) group to being a truly national organization, a major purpose of which is advocacy and education for members of Congress on UUA priority topics such as democracy, immigration and environmental action. As part of this reorganization, UUSJ is now requiring all interested congregations to sign an Affirmation of Partnership and contribute financially to the UUSJ. Tanner asked that we commit to contributing \$2000 this church year, which should be covered by the 5 share-the-plate offerings in July (the shared half of which are being designated for UUSJ). After discussion, Eduardo moved that: *Cedar Lane formally affirms a partnership with UUSJ and authorizes a \$2000 contribution in the current fiscal year.* This motion was seconded by Mmamohau. *All in favor.*

Action Item: Bob and Tanner will arrange for the proper individuals to sign the Affirmation of Partnership.

Reimbursement of Rev. Ali's Moving Expenses

In the package negotiated with Rev. Ali for his employment as Cedar Lane's next Assistant Minister, the allowance for moving expenses from Atlanta to Bethesda was only \$5000. The first estimate he has gotten for this move is \$11,400. He is getting additional estimates, but it is clear that \$5000 is too little. Sandy Shaw made a motion that: *Cedar Lane will reimburse Rev. Ali or pay his moving company up to \$11,400 in moving expenses, with the excess over \$5000 to come from the Cedar Lane reserves.* Mmamohau seconded the motion. *All in favor.*

Update on Rev. Ali's Transition

Rev Ali will begin work here on August 21. He was here this past weekend to get his children enrolled in Walter Johnson HS and Montgomery College and to find appropriate housing. Marilyn helped him with house-hunting. He also stopped by the church during the service on Sunday to say hi and informally meet people.

Pledging Update

Jen reviewed the latest data on the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 pledges. The pledges for 2021-2022 are now 92% paid, a rate similar to the previous year at this time. The number of pledges and the total amount pledged for 2022-2023 are about 10% below the same amounts at this time last year.

Use of Google Workspace

Jen explained that two years ago the decision was made that all documents and electronic records would switch to Google Workspace, which is a superior platform for documenting the history of organizations like Cedar Lane. The staff completed this transition at that time, and the Board did so last year. This year, it is time for the Board Committees and Ministry Teams to follow suit. Individuals with questions about how to accomplish this can ask Jen, or go to free trainings at the Montgomery County Library, or ask their questions in a Google Search.

Introduction to Cedar Lane Financials

Jen will review how to read the monthly profit and loss (P&L) tables at the Board Retreat in September. The Financial Policy Committee reviews these tables carefully each month and alerts the Board if they see anything worrisome.

September Board Retreat

The fall Board Retreat will be on Saturday September 10. Bob, Roger, Eduardo and Stephanie will help plan it. Eduardo said that last year's retreat was too short - we identified problems but didn't leave enough time to discuss solutions to them. Sandy Shaw also suggested planning for a longer meeting, and then leaving early if all of the business gets done. Several people suggested that we try to hold the retreat offsite. The planning group will consider the possibility of an offsite meeting.

Action Item: Bob, Roger, Eduardo and Stephanie will meet and plan the Board Retreat.

August Board Orientation

There will be a separate Board Orientation 9 AM -12 Noon on Saturday August 6. This is especially important for new Board members, but all Board members are invited to attend. The

agenda for this meeting will include expectations and duties of Board members, introduction to the Board Policy Manual, orientation to policy-based governance, and what Board leadership entails.

Action Item: The Executive Committee will plan the Board Orientation.

Closing

The Participant Observer, Mmamohau, observed that the meeting went well. Bob then read the closing words used by Rev. Abhi at the close of the June Congregational meeting. The brief paragraph by the Scottish mountaineer, William K. Murray states that when a commitment is made, Providence moves in unanticipated ways to assist in achieving one's goals.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.