

MINISTERIAL SEARCH TEAM REPORT

Here's a question for the Board.
Jan

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mary Van Valin <mqvv77@yahoo.com>
Date: April 9, 2021 at 5:54:23 PM EDT
To: Janet Zerbel <wjzerbel@gmail.com>
Subject: Board report

Hi Jan,

What if we asked them when and in what format they would like to meet with Alex between May 8-15?

Mary

Sent from my iPhone

Program Council Minutes

Friday February 12, 2021

3:00 PM

ZOOM Number = 841 9047 6504

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84190476504>

Attending: Rev Cathy Harrington, *Interim Minister*; Amanda Mangiardi, *Sunday Services, Congregational Care, the Beacon*, Ellie Smith, *Endowment Committee*, Emmy Lou Cholak, *Social Justice Action*; Sandra McDonald, *Community Needs, Safe Harbor, LDC*; Betsy Hammerberg, *RE Director*, ; Lauren Keinath, *Landscaping*.
Renee Russel, *VE Director of Music*

Chalice Lighting & Ringing of the Bell – Thank you Cathy and Welcome everyone.

Agenda

A. **Approve the Minutes** of the January 8, 2021 meeting; Betsy moved to approve, Amanda seconded

B. **UUCGT 2021 - 2022 Pledge Drive kick-off is this Sunday 2/14/2021.**
Please fill out and return the Pledge Form ASAP. As shown in the Beautiful Brochure developed by the Stewardship Team and Mary Anne Rivers' Grand-Daughter, the GOAL this year is \$300,000 in Pledges.

C. **New Projects:**

See discussion under Social Justice

D. **Individual/ Committee Check-in:**

Leadership Development: Sandra LDC has slate full. 6 candidates 3 for Board and 3 for LDC. Working on axial leadership development next. Cathy will facilitate a 6 week Leadership Development workshop called “**Harvest the Power**”. She is currently leading “**Starting Points**”, for potential or current members which lasts for 3 weeks. Trying to inspire people to get involved and leaders to understand systems and understand leadership as a spiritual growth experience and not a burden.

Community Needs: Sent out 3 checks of \$500 each to Food Rescue, Meals on Wheels and Womens Resource Center.

Candace Lee brought in the recorded speaker for the February 5 service who talked about nourishment and friendship received at Tuesday Lunch. Renee created a video from the audio file.

Since we donated to Food Rescue, Jane Lippert might be a good person if we can fit that in on Feb. 28 when she is guest speaker. She will not be live but will be recorded.

Landscaping: Not much going on right now as everything is under the snow waiting for Spring!

Endowment Committee:

At our January 20th Zoom meeting determination was made for dispersement of \$2,100.00 from the Vanguard Investment Fund. It is divided into three equal parts as determined by our By-laws: \$700 to those in need, \$700 for the current Search Fund, \$700 for the physical building to be used for window washing.

Karl will take recommendations to the Board for final approval.

Committee tabled an idea started in the spring, which was to send out an information letter to the congregation to inform them about how they can help with the continuation of the legacy of our congregation by contributing to Endowment Fund.

Renee - Music Director Report:

- ◆ Goal is to have a hymn each week.
- ◆ We are hopeful about transitioning to in person
- ◆ Talking to other choirs to discuss collaboration
- ◆ Social Justice Choir (Grand Rapids) may be a possibility as a collaborative partner. It would be great to have community collaboration.
- ◆ Talking to TC sings but they are busy with their own projects.

Social Justice Committee:

Emmy Lou was able to take a family a box of food from Meals on Wheels.

There are minor rules like can't help a 64-year-old because you have to be 65.

There is great need during this pandemic; people are really hurting. We did get an immigrant family united that had been separated who would like to thank the congregation at some point. Would like to have a special collection for this family.

Misc. ideas presented:

- Could we create a fund to help people when they need to have power or heat turned on? It is illegal to cut off the heat in Michigan during winter months.
- Could we set up a fund that is a source of funds for Emmy Lou as she is on the front line going to people's homes to distribute food and other items.
- Safe Harbor created a beautiful resource sheet for services in our area and lists every problem you can think of and resources to put them in touch with.
- Let's run the idea for a fund in front of the Board.

Many of these ideas could be covered by the Ministerial Discretion Fund to which Congregational Care donated \$2,000.00.

Renee Russel's comments on Social Justice and forwarded note to all after meeting:

“During our Program Committee meeting today I said I could provide links to local guides that have already been created to point you where to go when looking to help fellow community members in moments of crisis or need. (I became aware of all of these during my social work internships and study). As mentioned in the meeting, Safe Harbor created a comprehensive resources list that I have a link to below as well as several other links that may come in handy.

I also want to reiterate that I absolutely agree that there are moments that fall through the cracks with all of these resources and sometimes someone just needs something at that moment. I am certainly in favor of setting up a fund from our church that would provide such a momentary assistance.

The links below will hopefully provide you a comprehensive look at the web of support systems that are currently in place to catch others and how you can connect with them to provide more assistance. Also, most of them have community meetings that you can attend to learn more and provide feedback.

I feel very lucky to live in a community and be part of a church that cares so deeply for our neighbors.

Please let me know if you have any questions and I'll do my best to help!

Thank you.”

Renée

RESOURCES FOR HELPING

Here is the link to Safe Harbor's Local Needs Comprehensive Resources page:

<https://www.gtsafeharbor.org/community-resources/>

Other Useful links:

Street Outreach:

<https://www.goodwillnmi.org/street-outreach>

Neighborhood Outreach:

<https://www.gtsafeharbor.org/neighborhood-outreach/>

Grand Traverse County DHS

https://www.financialhelpresources.com/details/grand_traverse_county_dhs.html

Help for our immigrant community - Justice for our Neighbors:

<http://www.jfonmi.org/traverse-city>

Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency (also a comprehensive resource)

https://www.nmcaa.net/about_us.asp

[Their Emergency Food Assistance Program](#)

State Resource Page:

https://www.needhelppayingbills.com/html/michigan_assistance_programs.html

New Minister: Timing might be in early May when the Candidate Minister will have two services and a week in between to meet people and committees, and then we will vote.

Religious Education:

- 6 children meet with Alison weekly
- 8 packets went out with crafts and little things to let them know we are thinking about them.
- Betsy is thinking about how it will be when we are able to meet in person. She wants to: paint the room at the church, create an outdoor space as an intentional outdoor classroom.
- Thinking about curriculum and how we can tailor it to meet the needs of our congregation's children. We will have some 4-year-olds so what will we do for them?
- Betsy will be working with **Parallel 45** for six weeks this summer from mid-June through July.
 - We will have to run the services without her.
 - She will be managing their wardrobe departments; Making costumes and keeping lists and inventories. She will be doing everything except designing the costumes.
 - There will be two shows.

Membership - Chris Lautz note:

Membership doesn't have anything to report. Rev Cathy is leading a Starting Points UU orientation class.

Board - Judy Myers sent the **New Board Committee / Program Council organization** document after the meeting: see attached document

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM

Next meeting will be **Friday, March 12, 2021 at 3:00 PM**

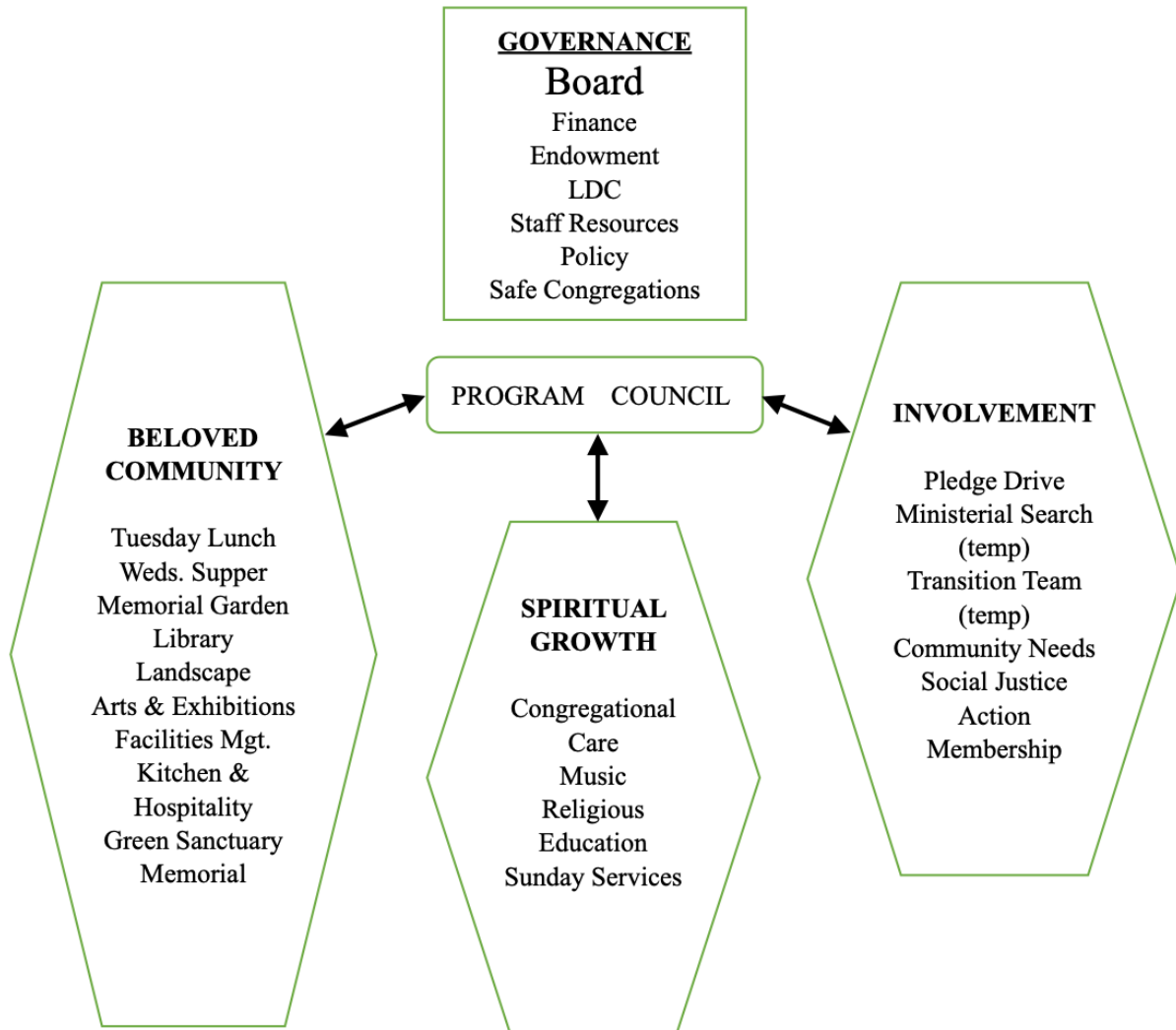
Minutes respectfully submitted: Amanda Mangiardi, Co-chair SSC

UUCGT Committee/Team Groupings



John Donne: "No one is an island entire of itself; every person is a piece of the continent, a part of the main."

At UUCGT we acknowledge that Lay work is a natural complement to worship, and that giving of our time and talents is an integral part of the mission of the church and that all aspects of our involvement spiritually nurture us. We volunteer for the deep joy of it, the friendships that we hold so dear, and we think of ourselves as shareholders or co-owners of our beloved community. Being involved in any area of our congregational life helps us experience a richer spiritual practice.



UUCGT PROGRAM COUNCIL MINUTES

March 12, 2021, 3:00 - 4:30 pm

Attending: Betsy Hammerberg, *Zoom convener, DRE*; Chris Walter, *Substitute Chair and Scribe Program Council, MST*; Emmy Lou Cholak, *Social Justice Action*; Judy Myers, *Board*; Sandra McDonald, *Community Needs, Safe Harbor, LDC*; Mary Ann Rivers, *President BOT, Reopening Task Force*; Amanda Mangiardi, *Sunday Services, Congregational Care*; *Richard Miller, Memorial Garden*; Lauren Keinath, *Landscaping*; Rev Cathy Harrington, Interim Minister;

POLICY of Program Council:

The role and primary focus of the UUCGT Program Council is the facilitation of the communication and coordination among the committees/teams of the congregation toward achieving UUCGT's Mission

Welcome all - Good to be together to support one another.

Program Council Agenda

Friday March 12, 2021 3:00 PM

ZOOM Number = [817 1271 4419](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81712714419) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81712714419>

Chalice Lighting & Words - Chris

From Braver/Wiser, Rev Kristin Grassel Schmidt (UU Church of Silver Spring, MD): After the Jan 6 insurrection at our nation's capitol - Needing to hold people accountable and face justice, yet - "Like the shepherd who leaves a large flock to go in search of a single lost sheep, may we never lose faith in the human capacity to someday, somehow find right relationship again, no matter how lost we might get. Amen."

Approve the Minutes of the February 12, 2021 meeting - Emmy Lou moved and Mary Anne seconded, All Aye, Approved, Will be sent to Board.

NOTE - From Chris Walter - For those who printed the Agenda, you will notice some slight variations, as Rick clarified things for me, we adjusted the Agenda. Let me know if I miss anything that needs to be discussed.

OLD Business - Some Items Tabled from Feb Meeting

1. Discuss Background and Focus of the new **UUCGT Committee/Team Groupings** found on Page 22 & 23 of the **MANUAL ON BOARD AND COMMITTEES** - Judy Meyers

NOTE: This document was included with the February Program Council Minutes and is what the Board has placed in the Manual on Policy. Rick felt it was important for PC members to know more information, Rationale for the Committee groupings? What was the Vision and functionality of the project? It's all about clear Communication and Understanding among PC members and the broader congregation.

Judy - Explained that UUCGT has a lot of committees. At the Fall Board Retreat with a UUA Consultant, who agreed, and recommended that things get Re-organized. After discussion at Board we agreed all committees serve a purpose. It was decided to group the committees into Entities - **Governance**, and **Beloved Community, Spiritual Growth, and Involvement** with the latter 3 connected to **Program Council**. There is absolutely no Change in Committee structure. This presentation simply looks better and makes sense.

Lauren - As chair of Landscaping, stated how great that Landscaping is in Beloved Community. She reminded everyone that last year a decision was made to combine Landscaping with Facilities, which does not have a chair now.

Cathy - mentioned that UUCGT is now thinking in terms of Teams, which don't necessarily need a Chair.

Judy - Stated it is perfectly OK to bring this "combination" information to Board, and it will get edited in the Manual.

2. Are there any major projects / focus that UUCGTG Program Council should be Working On / Spearheading? - **Nothing mentioned.**

NEW Business:

1. Outreach Survey Results - Judy

Purpose of Survey was to try to develop a rough idea of what Outreach Policy should be for UUCGT; We do Outreach, but there is no Policy for it. This is being worked on in Board, and will not be a new committee - But what is it that people are involved in already, then get an idea of what to do in the community?

Only 71 responses - Might not all be members, No control over the high number of people who got it;

People reported on \$ and Time given to organizations in the area;

Perhaps come up with 3 most important things UUCGT should/could be involved in the future;

Great Spreadsheet, by Carol Ritter - **Go to 3 Things Page** - Priorities, Data to consume, there is nothing to do with it; Tom Darnton and Judy will develop a rough draft, for new minister - All agree we must be involved in SJA, but we want to Spearhead things and be known in the Community.

Emmy Lou - this is focus we've thought of - We have SJA mtg on Sunday; It's like herding Cats, has been very hard; In past congregation members helped at Elementary School, then pandemic; To get people to connect; We'll talk Sunday; Past activities included showing

goal of \$300,000. We have a long way to go. Karl will be able to provide an update from next Thursday.

Thank you to all who have submitted your pledge forms for this year and if you haven't, Please fill out and return the Pledge Form ASAP.

Cathy added - 38% have raised pledges

RE - Betsy - Not much to report, With all parents, pandemic keeps getting harder; Doing a lot of Nature Play at Home; Thinking about Outdoor Learning for kids; Looking to the Future, Engagement is not great with kids right now; Focus on Being Together

Board - Mary Anne - Wednesday night Board talked about **Reopening Task Force**, Joe Cook Chair, with 7-8 members, assigned different tasks; Talking to other churches how doing it; What it takes to come back; Job of task force is to give recommendations to Board for Opening; Restrictions, etc. A Hybrid model will most likely continue. **RE Outdoor** place for Children; What can we do to help that, Safety. **Stewardship** - What do to encourage people, another speaker this Sunday, Erin Nolan will give testimonial (USCG helicopter pilot who has attended services and Wed Night Dinners & Zooms). **Discernment Mtg** will discuss - Update ByLaws language, Mar 24, separate from Board; All are invited to Board mtgs, 2nd Wed 7 PM.

Sunday Services - Amanda - Sunday services rolling well, getting comfy w/Zoom, Lost some committee members, recruiting more; Betsy runs zoom, but is taking time off in summer, Lot of work, using last of budget to hire someone, Geoff Norman-Anderson, will do this for last 2 services in June; Hire someone in July, \$40/service.

Mary Anne - Future services might possibly be taped for televising, but will not overlap with SS plans.

Amanda - We know there will be a hybrid, so we'll just proceed until told to stop; New minister will be doing some services, so SS is keeping flexible and open

Congregational Care - Amanda - Joanie is chair, keeping up with everything, sending cards, Let anyone on committee know if concerns, meeting monthly;

Landscaping - Lauren - Same as last month, Birds know it's spring, lighter earlier every morning; Switch clocks forward this Sunday; In May there will be Sunday workshops, spring cleanup, will send Notices to people, and work with Facilities.

Interim Minister - Cathy - involved with a lot of committees; Acceleration of daylight coinciding with how fast time is going, new minister will be selected, I'll be packing; Excited for Hybrid, will work with colleagues too; UUCGT won't open until have Hybrid ready; New Workshops, Anti-Racism, 2 new; Harvest the Power (Leadership development); Alison, will work with a friend of Cathy's congregation, will teach White Fragility class; Attend Conf in

TX in April, will learn about congregations who need interims, will know by May 20;
Trying to live in tension.

LDC, Community Needs, Wed Night Zoom Fellowship - Sandra - Good slate of candidates will be announced early April; **Community Needs** - good news we'll have more funds this quarter; Having speakers at services has helped; **Wed Happy Hour** is ongoing; We're having a going away for Erin Nolan, USCG, send off - in parking lot; She has been a real treat in group, transferring to Puerto Rico.

Memorial Garden - Richard - is still there, checked it - snow gone, moss looks good, it grows under the snow; Looking forward to raking twigs; No requests for interments during this entire pandemic period.

Emmy Lou - There's a tree called serviceberry, When it bloomed in the woods in spring in VA, is when they would bury people who died in winter, that's how it got its name.

Social Justice Action - Emmy Lou - meeting Sunday; Outreach is different per Judy; Will discuss with committee Sunday, do they want a main project? When people arrive from other countries, they call UU, they call Emmy Lou; They gravitate to UU, We do have a name in town; Everybody welcome to meeting Sunday; We'll get back into serving the elementary school once pandemic is over.

Cathy - News, Children for a whole year behind because of pandemic; We need an Army of tutors to help the kids, maybe congregation would pick up on that issue.

Emmy Lou - Great idea; We could also help with more nature Walks at Boardman River Nature Center; Nature Center has camps for kids; Don't have to be a nature expert, just good at 1 on 1 with a child.

Membership - Chris Lautz via email - Rev Cathy is planning a new member ceremony for Mar 21 for Holly Haywood and maybe Susan Smith. Rita and Jerry Miller passed as they will be spending more time in Manistee during spring and summer.

Adjourned 3:50 pm

- **Adjourn to April 9, 2021, 3:00 pm** - ZOOM Number = [817 1271 4419](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81712714419)
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