

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana

Seeking the Spirit, Building Community, Changing the World

Board Minutes

November 15, 2023



I. Call to Order and Chalice Lighting	1
II. Check-in	2
III. Approval of the Board Minutes	2
IV. Reports	2
A. Interim Lead Minister Report	2
B. Social Justice Report	2
V. New Business	2
A. December Congregational Meeting	2
VI. Old Business	3
B. 75 Year Anniversary Celebration (January 5, 1949)	3
C. Outstanding Pledges	3
VII. Housekeeping	3
VIII. Parking Lot	4
IX. Executive Session	4
X. Adjournment	4

Board members attending in person: Mary Craig, Drew Schrader, Regina DiLamore, Bill Lonnerberg, Jane McLeod, Linda Pickle, Abby Gitlitz

Board members attending via Zoom: None

Board members absent: None

Ministers attending: Reverend Connie Grant

Guests attending: None

Guests attending via Zoom: None

Submitted by: Regina DiLamore, Secretary

Attached Documents:

- A. Lead Minister's Report

I. Call to Order and Chalice Lighting

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm. The chalice was lit. A quorum was in attendance.

II. Check-in

III. Approval of the Board Minutes

President Abby Gitlitz moved to approve the October 2023 Board Meeting minutes, Mary Craig seconded the motion and the motion carried. Linda Pickle, Board Member At Large moved to approve the October 22, 2023 Congregational Meeting Minutes, Bill Lonnerberg seconded the motion and the motion carried.

IV. Reports

A. Interim Lead Minister Report

Highlights from the interim lead minister's report include:

- Members of the new Lifespan Engagement Team are meeting November 17, 2023, to make plans for initiatives to encourage intergenerational engagement
- An electronic voting system is being developed and will be ready for the December 10 meeting. If the system works as planned, it will be used during the meeting to call a new settled minister in Q2 2024.

The Lead Minister's report is provided in Attachment A.

B. Social Justice Report

Jackie Hall was not able to attend the meeting and present the Social Justice Report.

V. New Business

A. December Congregational Meeting

The Board discussed the proposed December Congregational Meeting agenda. There will be two votes during the meeting and online participation in voting will be enabled. The Board and Rev. Grant discussed the possibility of a secret (paper) ballot for practice purposes.

Bill Lonnerberg, Treasurer and Amanda Waye, Director of Administration have been working on the budget and engaging with stakeholders for approval of minor revisions.

The Board noted that the quorum is now 15%, that is 87 members.

The Board discussed the possibility of adding an online monitor (e.g., At-Large Board Member) during the Congregational meeting to interface with on-line members. The monitor may read on-line comments to the congregation during discussion. Drew Schrader, Member At-Large will work with the Technology Coordinator and Vice President Jane McLeod will monitor the chat.

VI. Old Business

A. Formation of Pledge Drive Committee

President Abby Gitlitz confirmed the following four members agree to participate in the Pledge Drive Committee:

1. Pat Slabach
2. Judy Witt
3. JaneAnn Gifford
4. Corrin Clarkson

Joan Caulton agreed to participate part-time in an advisory role; therefore, one more committee member is needed. The Board discussed potential candidates

B. 75 Year Anniversary Celebration (January 5, 1949)

The January 5, 2024, service will be devoted to the UUCB anniversary. Dinorah Sapp is interested in supporting the anniversary celebration. President Gitlitz will continue to look for volunteers.

C. Outstanding Pledges

The Board discussed drafting a Perspectives article to address outstanding pledges. Bill Lonnerberg, Treasurer will send out a draft to the Board for comment in advance of the November 29 due date. The Board will also discuss the topic during the December 10 congregational meeting. The Board recommended a process whereby the office will send a quarterly reminder to members about pledge status. Rev. Grant answered questions about the membership review process to occur in January 2024.

VII. Housekeeping

The Board discussed a UUCB organization chart created by John Sommerlot in 2014.

The Board discussed the IU Solar Eclipse event on April 8, 2024.

President Gitlitz discussed the Board staffing a Lucy booth again in the future.

Board representation during morning services is good through December 31.

The Perspective articles are covered by the Board through December.

VIII. Parking Lot

None

IX. Executive Session

The Board entered executive session at 8:33 pm.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:37 p.m.

Attachment A

Date: November 15, 2023
To: Board of Directors
From: Rev. Connie Grant, Interim Lead Minister
Subject: Monthly Report – November, 2023

Highlights and updates:

Seeking the Spirit

- Worship Associates and Chalice Leaders continue to take an active role in planning and presenting services. Four youth Chalice Leaders have been trained and oriented to offer chalice lighting readings and participate in Sunday services, particularly multigenerational ones.

Building Community

- The Young Adult Group met on November 12, with 14 in attendance including newcomers from prior UU congregations, current UUCB young adults, and one first-time newcomer.
- A Multigenerational Engagement Team is launching, intended to generate and support social and other events for people of all ages. Their mission is to help make UUCB a place where people of all ages and stages of life -- children and their families, elders, young adults, and everyone else -- are visibly included, recognized, and appreciated.

Some of their initial projects:

Supporting post-service lunch Nov 19

Organizing activities for all ages at Nov 23 Thanksgiving Dinner

Organizing intergenerational holiday caroling

Changing the World

- Jackie Hall is reporting on Social Justice this month

Other information:

- The parking lot and meeting room have been filling on recent Sundays, particularly with guest speakers (as well as the premier of Mary Goetze's new piece) generating high interest and attendance. Notes about additional parking areas will be included in the Friday update and announcements, and greeters will help people find empty seats.
- Hans Kelson is working on a system for electronic voting by remote attendees at congregational meetings. The intention is to have this in place for the Dec 10 meeting in order to have it fully functional by the time of the meeting to call a new settled minister.
- Review of membership roll is planned for January, in keeping with newly-approved Bylaws, in order to have a more accurate membership list for the upcoming Pledge Drive as well as to accurately determine the quorum of members needed to call a settled minister in the spring. Note that the previous Bylaws mandated an annual membership review "with reference to participation." In lieu of this, last year a questionnaire was sent to those on the membership

roll, which included a question about whether they wanted to continue their commitment and involvement as a member of UUCB.

- Update on mold and leakage issues

Mold remediation has been completed and rooms 103 and 105 are open for business. However, high moisture levels continue to be concerning. The dehumidifier that is kept running needs to be emptied frequently. Dick Stumpner has been apprised of this and is aware of possible causes. Here is Dick's response:

Thank you for bringing this up Amanda. James (Bloom Environmental) and I had a discussion about this earlier. One thing that might be causing the higher humidity in room 105 is associated with a situation outside. There is a downspout that goes under the concrete next to the door under the portico. I had pointed this out to Connie and Amanda at one time, thinking that the underground downspout might be allowing water to be carried into room 105. I don't think the water is necessarily going as far along that wall as I did at the time we talked, but there is a very high likelihood that water is leaking out of the buried drain next to the (below ground) wall of room 105. That would easily explain higher humidity in that room. Of course, there hasn't been much rainfall in late summer and fall until recently, and I don't have a complete explanation of what might be occurring in the subterranean space. However, if you look at the roof above the offices, you will see that it is a very large area which is drained by only 2 downspouts. It makes sense that the drains could easily get overwhelmed in a steady or heavy rain coming off such a large roof area. Again, I don't have an exact explanation of what is happening but think we should wait to see what the humidity level does when the heat goes on more regularly. The furnace heat should bring the humidity down if anything is going to. Of course we will likely have more rain also, but those two factors should give us some additional insight into what the problem is.

I have also wondered if the windows are the culprit allowing moisture to enter the building. I've looked at the windows fairly carefully and know that there are a few that need to be adjusted, or possibly have new sash installed. The windows overall are still in good shape and don't show any apparent evidence of water intrusion on a larger scale. The windows are all Pella, which are a very good brand and well made, so replacing the units probably isn't going to change the humidity issue by itself, in my opinion.

In the overall, larger picture of the lower level, please remember back to when we had water standing in the heat ducts in the hallway of the RE rooms downstairs. I filled those heat ducts with concrete several years ago, but that doesn't mean the water below the floor went away. Whatever it was that allowed water to build up under the lower level floor is still at work now, too. Some of you will also remember that I oversaw the replacement of our sewer line that goes all the way down to north Jordan, south of the church. When I was there on those adjacent properties there were several notable areas where water was persistently standing on top of the ground. It might very well be that some sort of spring or ground water source is located on our property, especially given the limestone bedrock in the area. I remember that the water in the ductwork would remain for weeks at a time, so it wasn't just an insignificant source of water. None of this proves that there is a larger water issue, but there is also no real way to check if one exists without extensive work. In some ways, keeping a dehumidifier running is a good resolution to what might be a much harder overall issue to remedy.