

USG Board Minutes 10/22/19

Water Issues with Bill Blasdel - An investigation of the grounds revealed a clogged pipe(s), which is contributing to water problems on the grounds. There is a high water table and excess water which is harmful to trees. Bill proposes that we apply for a federal grant to mitigate water problem. One idea is for a drain to be created to eliminate extra groundwater that builds up. Bill proposed that we retain a civil engineer to look into the problem of excess water buildup and advise us. The Edna Jones fund will be used to cover the cost of the engineer. The cost of an engineers evaluation and report was estimated to be in the range of \$1,200- 1,700. The proposal was approved by the board.

MET Report (attached below)- Kent noted various events coming up this fall, holy days and holidays....Annual Meeting will be held May 17, 2020 and board is doing fellowship hour on that date.

Nominating Committee Opening - Howard Silver resigned from the nominating committee and his spot needs to be filled. Please let Jenn know if you have a candidate suggestion.

Minister's report - Staff Goals presented by Kent This is our second year of just one minister and the biggest areas where it's felt are worship and pastoral care. Sunday morning attendance is down, but this is consistent with 90% of other churches. UUA is using a Cluster model. There are 1000 UU congregations, in 5 districts, 200 congregations in our district. UUA would like to move more toward clusters, but there are lots of challenges. The greater philly area is working best of all clusters and it will continue.

There was discussion of a paradigm shift in the way churches view their function and role. There will be more online opportunities and ways to be together for worship, meditation and other activities. There has also been discussion of social media and how it can be used more effectively and conversations about the role of Sunday morning at USG.

Elevator celebration/dedication is scheduled for Nov. 24.

We received a \$15,000 grant from partners for sacred spaces and it was matched by \$15,000 from the music endowment. The money will be used to repair our organ.

There will be a "Building a better Board" webinar offered by the Central East regional group and anyone interested was invited to participate.

Capital Campaign Update - We currently have ~\$ 48,000 in capital campaign fund. We also have ~\$19,000 in outstanding pledges and ~ \$65,000 in loans. This means that essentially all the money raised by the capital campaign has been used to fund the elevator construction.

Security Needs - Kent recommends moving forward with new locks on the USG building doors.

The Elevator costs have been fully covered.

The Board Retreat will be held on Nov. 9, 2020, 9am - 12pm.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sam Stormont

Ministry Executive Team Report - October 2019

The MET had a full month of meetings, reviewed the staff priorities for the coming year and worked on the Church events calendar. Copies of the priorities will be forwarded separately.

Specific issues include:

Storm Water flooding and high water table

MET met with Bill Blasdel to learn about possible solutions to our storm water run off problems which are creating issues with our large, older trees. MET agrees this needs to be considered by the Board and Board approval would be necessary to move forward. MET has concerns about possible impacts on the driveway of any work on the project.

The MET considered a request from the UUSC to provide overnight hosting for the marchers on the New York to Washington March for DACA and TPS on November 1. Assuming logistics can be worked out, MET approved this request.

We worked through the schedule of events for the coming year and identified areas where we need to settle dates and/or leadership.

Dates need to be set for the Annual Dinner and Annual Meeting
Technical help is needed for registrations for MLK Day projects
Leader/s and dates need to be identified for the Seder
Kay Weiser will lead the Annual Dinner

MET proposes that Community Day (November 24) will be an appropriate time to celebrate the elevator and the leadership and funding for that effort.

For the MET, submitted by Gale Gibbons

