

Decorah UU
Minutes
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Online via Zoom
Tuesday, August 4, 2020

Call to Order – The meeting began informally at 7:05 p.m. via Zoom.

Board Members Present – Matthew Alexander, Beth Wahlberg, Maggie Hayden, Lynn Pleggenkuhle, Julie Ohde.

Others Present – Decorah UU Fellowship Coordinator Otter Dreaming.

Chalice Lighting and Reaffirmation of the Board Covenant

Additions to the Agenda – There were no additions to the agenda.

Comments from Decorah UU Members and Friends – There were no comments.

Reports

Approval of the Previous Month's Board Meeting Minutes – Matthew moved and Maggie seconded that the July Board Meeting Minutes be approved as received via email. After a brief discussion to confirm that Lynn will fill the three-year Board trustee position, the motion carried.

Acknowledgement of Treasurer's July 2020 Financial Summary (Addendum A) – Beth noted that several larger donations had come in, so that our monthly net income was larger than usual. She also noted that the UUA Fair Share bill had arrived as well, which will be an expenditure of over \$3000. Lynn moved and Matthew seconded that the Treasurer's Report be acknowledged. The motion carried.

Old Business

- a. **Discussion of how to handle an ongoing situation with a community member** – Board members discussed a situation in which a community member has become upset at several Decorah UU email announcements from Otter in recent months. Board members approved a succinct message for Otter to send, including notice that the community member will be removed from Decorah UU's mailing list.

New Business

- a. **Share the Plate recipient for September-October** – Beth will share a list of past recipients with Board members, for review and ideas. After a brief discussion, Board members settled on NE IA Community Action Corporation. Maggie moved and Julie seconded that NEICAC be the September-October plate recipient. The motion carried.
- b. **Otter's request to use the Decorah UU Zoom account** – Board members discussed Otter's request to use the Decorah UU Zoom account for a) CircleSong, ongoing, with Kristin Albertson, and b) a one-time use, for his upcoming piano student recital. Board members agreed that Otter's using the Zoom account will have the effect of advertising Decorah UU as a presence in the community, but for the piano recital, since it

is related to Otter's livelihood, he may change the Zoom host name. Matthew moved and Maggie seconded that Otter may use the Decorah UU Zoom account.

- c. **Service schedule for September and beyond (Addendum B,** August 4th email from Karen Esterl, for the Board's consideration) – Board members discussed supporting the Sunday Services Committee in regard to Karen's questions, but also discussed larger issues: how are we doing as a Fellowship? how do we find out what people need from the Fellowship during this time, not only whether we meet every other Sunday, but in other areas as well, knowing that the online services aren't meeting everyone's needs. Beth and Julie will communicate with Karen Esterl and Carolyn Corbin to find out what they think about meeting every week again starting in September; to possibly survey the Fellowship to better decide how to proceed; and to consider item d, below. Any decision can be short-term, perhaps for two months at a time.
- d. **Specific plans at Twin Springs Park on 9/6 (Addendum B)** – Board members were positive about the idea of meeting outside and socially distanced. Board members agreed that doing so would not set an unrealistic precedent, as we move into winter and won't be outside anyway. By consensus, the Board approved the plan to meet outside at Twin Springs Park on September 6.

Adjournment – Lynn moved and Matthew seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Extinguishing the Chalice

The Next Board Meeting – The next Board meeting is Tuesday, September 1st at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Otter Dreaming, Decorah UU Fellowship Coordinator

Addendum A

NEIUUF/Decorah UU Financial Summary for July 2020

NEIUUF/Decorah UU Assets as of: **July 31, 2020**

Certificates of Deposit	\$50,974.50
General Fund	\$34,783.07
Owl Account	\$1,416.01
TOTAL EQUITY	\$87,173.58

GENERAL FUND

REVENUES

7/2/20	
Mailed pledges	\$680.00
7/8/20	
Pledge by bank	\$50.00
7/24/20	
Mailed pledges & donations	\$3,570.00
Pledges	\$3,425.00
Share-the-Plate (Decorah Area Food Pantry)	\$145.00
7/31/20	
Mailed pledges	\$655.00
7/20/20	
Interest on checking	\$1.40
7/15/20	

July ACH (auto donations)	\$942.50
TOTAL JULY REVENUES	\$5,898.90

EXPENDITURES

Otter Dreaming, Fellowship Coordinator salary	\$769.11
U.S. Treasury, quarterly withholding	\$507.11
State of Iowa, quarterly withholding	\$57.00
Decorah Area Food Pantry	
Share-the-Plate June/July 2020	\$145.00
TOTAL JULY EXPENDITURES	\$1,478.22
Net Income This Month	\$4,420.68

OWL FUND

Beginning balance: July 1, 2020	\$1,416.01
REVENUES, none	\$0.00
EXPENDITURES, none	\$0.00
BALANCE JULY 31, 2020	\$1,416.01

Addendum B

Hi, y'all.

2 things to discuss at the upcoming board meeting:

1. Service schedule September and beyond.
2. Particular plans for 9/6.

Details:

Carolyn's and my plan as of this writing is to resume services every Sunday in September unless otherwise instructed by the board with the caveat that we may, after trying to resume a weekly schedule, ask the congregation to consider a reduced service schedule if we have inadequate volunteers to lead services. Does that approach sound right to y'all?

Re Monday 9/6 in particular, Carolyn and I were discussing upcoming services, and we thought we'd ask the board if it's possible (assuming COVID cases in Winneshiek plateau and/or decline) to have an in-person outdoor physically distanced, masked, and very careful ingathering service at Twin Springs. Carolyn has a megaphone that could be used to overcome mask muffling (honestly using a megaphone could be helpful for every outdoor service), which would could be wiped down thoroughly with antibacterial wipes between uses. People who feel uncomfortable using the megaphone could offer written notes for the service leader to share during the water communion service.

This service would take the place of the typical potluck we normally have Labor Day weekend, so we could also encourage folks to brown bag it to have an outdoor shared meal, reminding people who are not members of the same household to remain at least 6 feet apart.

All the other usual precautions would also be observed:

- Anyone feeling sick should stay home.
- Hand sanitizer would be available.
- Everyone should wear masks. (Exceptions: babies or children younger than 2 years old; people w/ respiratory difficulties.)
- A no-touch trash can would be available.

Given the fact that, according to the CDC, apart from virtual-only gatherings a small outdoor gathering in which individuals from different households remain spaced at least 6 feet apart, wear cloth face coverings, do not share objects, and come from the same local area is as low risk as it gets, we're thinking the proposed service could work. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/considerations-for-events-gatherings.html>)

But we defer to the judgement of the board. We look forward to hearing what y'all determine before we proceed to plan 9/6. (If we do plan on a service at Twin Springs on 9/6, there will be no rain plan. Service would be cancelled in case of inclement weather.)

Thanks very much, and my apologies for not being able to get this email to you sooner!

Best wishes,
Karen