

Decorah UU
Minutes
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Online via Zoom
Thursday, March 4, 2021

Call to Order – Matthew Alexander called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. via Zoom.

Board Members Present – Matthew Alexander (Decorah UU Board Chair), Beth Wahlberg (Treasurer), 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 – Lynn asked that Board members discuss when the Fellowship might meet in-person again. The topic was added to New Business, although it was also discussed during Old Business, letter b.

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

Reports

Approval of the Previous Month's Board Meeting Minutes – Lynn moved and Matthew seconded that the February Board Meeting Minutes be approved as received via email. The motion carried.

Acknowledgement of Treasurer's February 2021 Financial Summary (Addendum A) – Beth noted that the financial summary needs some corrections: there was a late fee for the second quarter withholding; and there are still some Decorah Community Food Pantry donations in the PayPal account from 2020. Julie moved and Matthew seconded to not acknowledge the financial summary for now, in order to give Beth time to make those corrections. The motion carried.

Old Business

- a. **Annual Meeting** – Board members discussed a proposed date for the Annual Meeting of the Fellowship, and the need to consider how Board tenures be staggered, to prevent too many simultaneous rotations off the Board from happening at once. Julie will take the lead on looking at the history of the Board, the beginning dates and duration of present members' terms, and how officers' term limits relate to the former. Matthew moved and Maggie seconded that the Annual Meeting be held on April 25th. The motion carried. Julie is willing to put together the order of service; she may ask for help from Beth or others. Beth may consider being service leader that day.
- b. **Covenant Renewal Process** – Beth shared the Covenant Renewal form that was sent out to members last year. Board members agreed that the format was clear, concise and user-friendly. Beth will update the form for this year and run it past the Board for feedback. Julie suggested adding a disclaimer about "when we are able to meet again in person" to the call for volunteer help. The Board will bring ideas to the Annual Meeting about when and how we might resume in-person gatherings, noting that we will have to check with the Lingonberry and consider other factors in the decision, e.g., the UUA will probably have some guidelines. Maggie will look into what other organizations and businesses are doing and formulate potential guidelines, using UUA and Winneshiek County Public Health as resources. She will present ideas at the April Board meeting.

New Business

- a. **Sponsoring a Family** – Board members discussed Steven Nelson's idea of sponsoring a family, considering whether money would come out of the current budget or from raising extra contributions; and wondering if NEICAC already has a project similar to the Christmas gift program in which Decorah UU already participates. Beth moved and Julie seconded that the Board will look further into the matter. The motion carried. Beth will talk with Steven to find out more about what he envisions and she will report back to the Board.

- b. **Investment of Fellowship “savings”** – Beth talked with Carl Peterson about the Decorah UU funds that are earning minimal interest. Beth proposed that the Board give her permission to form a committee with Carl Peterson and another person, to be determined, to discuss possibilities. The committee would look into by-laws, look at individual funds’ restrictions, etc. and potentially give a report at the Annual Meeting. Maggie moved and Matthew seconded that the Board grant Beth the power to create the proposed committee. The motion carried.
- c. **Support of UU Grant for Sally Hartman and UU Drawdown 2021 Ecochallenge** – Matthew moved and Lynn seconded that Decorah UU affirm the project, which is aligned with our UU Principles. The motion carried.
- d. **Donation to UUA Disaster Relief Fund (TX)** – Beth moved and Matthew seconded that Decorah UU send \$100 to the relief fund. The motion carried.
- e. **When we might meet in person again** – The webinars offered through MidAmerica Messenger are all full. Maggie will look into this matter, as noted in Old Business, letter b., above. Julie suggested that something like an outdoor potluck at the end of May might be an appropriate activity this year. Beth will email Karen to check in about this idea, including possible locations that could be considered. Board members agreed that, for now, the safety practices of wearing masks and social distancing should be continued, even if we plan some outdoor activities and even if people are vaccinated.
- f. **Increased Speaker Stipend** – From an email proposal presented to the Board in January 2021: the Board approved Carolyn Corbin’s proposal to increase speaker fees to \$200, up to 5 times per year, for speakers who are BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) or from other marginalized groups. Beth will also let Karen and Carolyn know of this decision when she contacts the Sunday Services Committee about the Annual Meeting date (Old Business, letter a.) and about the possibility of scheduling an outdoor gathering (New Business, letter e.).

Adjournment – Beth moved and Lynn seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Extinguishing the Chalice

Respectfully submitted by
Otter Dreaming, Decorah UU Fellowship Coordinator

Addendum A

NEIUUF/Decorah UU Financial Summary for February 2021

NEIUUF/Decorah UU Assets as of:

February 28, 2021

Certificates of Deposit	\$51,024.65
General Fund	\$36,495.17
PayPal Account	\$1,002.81
Owl Account	\$1,416.01

TOTAL EQUITY	\$89,938.64
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GENERAL FUND

REVENUES

2/8/21	Pledge by bank (Jan & Feb)	\$100.00
2/8/21	By mail	\$180.00
	Pledges	\$180.00
2/18/21	Interest	\$1.55
2/24/21	By mail	\$150.00
	Pledges	\$150.00
2/19/21	February ACH (auto donations)	\$767.50

2/28/21	Pledges via PayPal	\$475.00
TOTAL FEBRUARY REVENUES		\$1,674.05

EXPENDITURES

Otter Dreaming, Fellowship Coordinator salary	\$810.17
Zoom, monthly fee - February 2021	\$16.04
U.S. Treasury, Federal Withholding 2nd qtr late fee	\$26.58
Decorah Community Food Pantry	
Share-the-Plate (May-August)	\$121.65
PayPal, PayPal fees (2.2% + \$0.30/transaction)	\$11.05
TOTAL FEBRUARY EXPENDITURES	\$985.49

Net Income This Month	\$688.56
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OWL FUND

Beginning balance: February 1, 2021	\$1,416.01
REVENUES, none	\$0.00
EXPENDITURES, none	\$0.00
BALANCE FEBRUARY 28, 2021	\$1,416.01