



Minutes for Board Meeting on NOVEMBER 9, 2023

Opening Prayer – The monthly meeting of the Unity of South Sound (USS) Board started at 6:43 PM (online via Zoom) with an opening prayer by Rev. Meghan.

Board of Trustee (BOT) members: Michele Zwosta, Steve Ryan, Nancy Jackson, Stacey Lawrence, Chris Lizarraga, Chris Beale, Rev. Meghan Smith Brooks, were in attendance. We have a quorum.

Check In – Board members checked in with one another.

MONTHLY REPORTS – calling out exceptions/concerns only

Approval of agenda

Approval of Secretary's Report / Board Minutes – Nancy Jackson submitted the October 12th minutes by email, and they were approved by email.

Tithe Report – See attached: Steve Ryan submitted the October Tithe Report by email. Nancy Jackson made a motion to approve the Tithes, Stacey Lawrence seconded, all Board Members approved.

Treasurer's Report – See attached: Steve Ryan submitted the October Treasurer's Report by email. Nancy Jackson made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Chris Lizarraga seconded, all Board Members approved.

Minister's Report - see attached

UPDATES ON OLD BUSINESS

Focused Ministry update – see Minister's report.

Faith In Action - see Minister's report – Steve Ryan made a motion to approve \$100.00 for DJ at the Soulful Soiree on Nov. 11th, Stacey Lawrence Seconded.

New Banner – Banner has been replaced and we thank David and Joey Sandall-Hill.

NEW BUSINESS

Form 2024 Budget Committee - Steve Ryan, Chris Lizarraga, Stacey Lawrence, Michele Zwosta. Meeting Nov. 28th 5:30 – 7:30, Michele's home.

Activate Board Nominations Committee- Annie Lane (lead) - Herlinda Garcia. **Board Positions open 2024 – (2) – 3-year positions – (1) 1 year position (to fulfill a term) – (1) 1-year Alternate position.**

Annual Meeting Date – February 25th following church service.

Board Leadership Training – November 30th 6:30 pm on zoom.

Executive Session – Board went into executive session

Business to return to in future meeting

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging Training - Bring back

Discussed planning a 2024 Calendar of events

2024 Events

ACTION ITEMS:

Rev. Meghan -

Welcoming Videos - in Process

Event Coordinator - Now focused on developing an Event Team to coordinate all USS activities. Along with a Community Outreach Team as well.

Investigate DEIB training

Michele –

Will put together an electronic calendar

Will investigate other groups & Teams can join Office 365. Investigate whether we can move away from zoom and use Team Meeting.

Unity of South Sound: Upcoming events

11/19/2023 - Gratitude Sunday

12/21/2023 - Solstice Event 7-8 pm

12/24/2023 - Children's Play /Cookie Exchange

Closing Prayer – Rev. Meghan closed the meeting with a prayer and the meeting ended at 9:19 pm.

Next Month's Board Meeting is December14, 2023, at 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Jackson, Secretary

DATE: 11/15/2023

Unity of South Sound NOVEMBER Board Meeting – Nov 9, 2023
Rev. Meghan Smith Brooks Ministers Report

Here are my highlights of activities from October/November and plans moving forward:

- **Our Prosperity:** We are in the midst of receiving in alignment of the vibrational flow of our good☺
- **Board Leadership Follow-up:** We will meet for our final special leadership session of 2023 on November 30 at 6:30pm. Our goal is to establish action steps in initiating Phase 2 of The Power of Focused Ministry – Analysis of our existing ministry. Please review the shared document of this phase and come with input, questions and your open hearts ready to initiate our next steps.
 - Michele and I have been meeting regularly to identify our next steps in leadership planning. On our agenda is plans to set into activation our Budget Planning Sub-Team and our Board Nominating Sub-Team in the next month. I am writing the criteria for our nominating team to use as their guide to support a positive process. Each team will require a board member to participate for oversight.
- **UWM ‘Let’s Grow Together’** monthly prosperity zoom sessions: The final session of the year will be held Wed Nov 8. I will have an update at our meeting with any relevant information to share. In the meantime, I propose we approve our Legacy Brochure draft to offer as an End-Of-The-Year Donation option.
- **YFM:** We thank the YFM team for their successful and fun Halloween Trunk-or-Treat event Oct 31st! Many families from our neighborhood came by and we made some new connections, planting seeds to nurture and grow from! The YFM team are getting into holiday mode with the planning of their Family Christmas Play for Sunday morning Dec 24th with a script from Neale Donald Walsh’s book “Santa God”! I will be working with them in the presentation and flow into our morning service.
- **Faith-In-Action update:** We are entering into our final week of this year’s Faith-In-Action book study series. It has had a positive response and energy as we have all explored the 7 Central Practices from World Religions to Awaken our Hearts and Minds! Nov 12 we will celebrate with our last practice of Generosity, setting up for our Gratitude Sunday Nov 19th☺
- **“Soulful Soiree” Silent Auction Event** - Sat, Nov 11 6-9pm: We are near the finish line to presenting our fall gala and prosperity funding event! We have received over 20 auction item donations with the goal of achieving \$35,000 to cover our budget gap crossed over from 2022. To date we have sold about 30 tickets...we need to reach 50 to know we have covered our expenses without having to draw from silent auction proceeds. Let us hold the vision there will be a line at the door buying tickets Sat night! I had a reminder email sent out Tuesday this week to encourage more sales. Our volunteers have stepped up to make a difference and all is coming together in beautiful and abundant ways!
- **Pledge Campaign** We have passed 3 weeks into our fall Pledge Campaign. We are close to reaching the halfway mark of our goal of \$187,000 in annual commitments for 2024. The current total is at \$87,900 after processing last Sunday’s pledge forms. We are seeing our prosperity blooming with each ‘fruit’ hung on our Tree of Life on our sanctuary stage! Let us hold the vision of reaching our goal as our spiritual community steps up to co-create our thriving future. Thank you for all being part of making this happen☺
- **Testimonial Videos:** We now have 4 testimonial videos recorded. They are in the process of being edited and will be posted on our website under “About Us” and on our Social Media pages soon!

Thank you to David Sandall-Hill for recording and interviewing those willing to share, and my granddaughter McKenna Emmerton, for her editing expertise in enhancing their quality!

- **Pastoral Care:** This has become a more involved area of my responsibilities moving into this year. I am honored to be of service in support of our members pastoral needs and in being part of recent memorial services I have participated in facilitating in the past month. I support our Prayer Chaplains into participation in this area as it deems relevant and makes a difference.
- **Service Ministry Team Report:** We are holding for the creation and active regular participation in three new teams for 2024: Sunday Service Team – replacing Heidi’s role with a volunteer team, Event Team – to manage and coordinate all ministry event needs, and Community Outreach Team – to manage and coordinate any outreach programs we choose to participate in. These teams will be vital in our overall ministry programing and services moving forward. I would like to see a Service Ministry Invitational Event planned in the New Year – to provide information on all our teams, there services and tasks, time commitments, etc to invite more of our membership into sacred service. This will be an opportunity to enhance what we offer and present in the future of our ministries enfoldment, as we each share in who and what we are.
- **Music:** Our custom Mission/Vision song “We Are Spirit Guided” will be introduced this coming Sunday, Nov 12th with ChristineEss, song writer, and our Music Team leading everyone in learning the song that defines who we are! This will become a regular song to encourage members in living our mission/vision/core values into expression as we co-create a vibrationally abundant spiritual community together☺
- **Holiday plans:** Christmas decorating plans in motion for after service Nov 26th with advent Sundays Dec 3/10/17/24 in the works. Christmas Eve music plans have begun, along with organizing our traditional Burning Bowl Service Dec 31 and White Stone Ceremony Jan 7.

We are preparing for a vibrant and prosperous future – many activities set into motion to invite participation of our membership. We are seeing new and returning attendees on Sunday mornings every week, this is a very good sign. I invite us to hold the vision of amazing results beyond what we can conceive of from our most creative imaginative power☺

You all rock!

Rev. Meghan

From: Steve Ryan <BoardTreasurer@unityofsouthsound.org>

Sent: Thursday, November 9, 2023 2:36 PM

To: USS Board of Trustees <Board@unityofsouthsound.org>

Subject: USS October 2023 Financial Report

The Unity of South Sound October Financial Report begins with a quick look at the Balance Sheet as of October 31, 2023. Total Assets decreased from the prior month end by \$7,160. The two major components of Total Assets are cash (Bank Accounts) and investments (Edward Jones.) Cash was up \$869 to \$2,685 and investments were down \$8,029. Peeking ahead, we see investments were down \$2,069 in market value and \$6,000 was transferred to our Global Credit Union (formerly Alaska CU) checking account. While our Short Term Liabilities (payroll related taxes) crept up another \$150 to \$2,464, a bug was found in the QuickBooks accrual of the Family Care Leave tax. Corrections are being made and QuickBooks has honored USS with 50% off our monthly fee due to the efforts Heidi made in resolving the issue.

The October 2023 Profit & Loss (Budget vs Actual) Statement shows the Tithes and Love Offerings were up from September but still lower than our year-to-date average. At 72% of budget, tithes were off \$4,068 at \$12,532 for the month. Total Income was off budget by \$5,774 pending the results of our Soulful Soiree' social/fundraising event in November. Expenses hovered at 98% of budget resulting in a \$4,981 Total Operating Loss for the month.

Our YTD Profit & Loss (Budget vs Actual) shows are income continuing to stall out below actual expenses. YTD Total income is at 79% of budget, \$157,280, or short \$43,007 of budget. Our Net Operating Loss for the year is now \$45,103 as expenses are tracking at only 1% over budget.

As we head towards year end and begin our 2024 budget process, it is important to look at the larger picture. Pre-pandemic, attendance was nearing 100 congregants/week while currently we average 45 in-house and 16 on-line. Projected Tithes and Love Offerings for 2023 are around \$175,000 which is at tad more than 2019. However, depending on the outcome of our end of year prosperity funding, Total Income for 2023 could trail 2019 by as much as \$50,000. Without looking at the details, this suggests that the smaller post-pandemic congregation is not supporting the "other" prosperity events to the extend we saw before. Noteworthy is that our projected 2023 Total Expenses are only \$6,000 more than our actual 2019 Total Expenses. Food for thought was be strive to thrive in 2024.

Blessings,

Steve Ryan
Board Treasurer, Unity of South Sound