



Minutes for Board Meeting on September 12, 2023

Opening Prayer – The monthly meeting of the Unity of South Sound (USS) Board started at 6:35 PM (online via Zoom) with an opening prayer by Rev. Meghan.

Board of Trustee (BOT) members: Michele Zwosta, Steve Ryan, Nancy Jackson, Stacey Lawrence, Rev. Meghan Smith Brooks, were in attendance. Chris Lizarraga, Chris Beale, were not present. 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 submitted the Aug. 10th minutes by email, and they were approved by email.

Tithe Report – See attached: Submitted the August Tithe Report by email. Nancy made a motion to approve the Tithes Stacey Lawrence seconded, all Board Members approved.

Treasurer's Report – See attached: Submitted the Aug. Treasurer's Report by email. Nancy made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Stacey Lawrence 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

Minister's Job description and Goals – completed

NEW BUSINESS

Continuing Safety Training - see Minister's report

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging Training - see Minister's report

Went into executive session

Discussed planning a 2024 Calendar of events

Community Gathering – 10/15 after service

Board Positions open 2024 – 2 – 3 year positions – 1 year position (to fulfill a term) – 1 –1 year Alternate position.

New Members : Steve made a motion to accept the following new members, Nancy seconded.

Georgia DeLeon – Dorothy Dubia – Candace Robbecke – Pam Gruenstein

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 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

09/14/2023 - World Day of Prayer

10/01/2023 - Pancake Breakfast - New Members

10/15/2023 - Community Sharing and Q & A after service

10/31/2023 - Halloween Truck –N- Treat sponsored by YFM

11/11/2023 - Faith in Action Soulful Soiree & Auction

11/19/2023 - Gratitude Sunday

12/21/2023 - Solstice Event

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

Closing Prayer – Michele Zwosta closed the meeting with a prayer and the meeting ended at 8:53 pm.

Next Month's Board Meeting is October 12 2023, at 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Jackson, Secretary

Unity of South Sound SEPTEMBER Board Meeting
Rev. Meghan Smith Brooks Ministers Report

Here are my highlights of activities from August/September and plans moving forward:

- **Our Prosperity:** See the FIA update information as it plays into our prosperity plans and the action steps inviting our membership into participation of our expanding abundance. We continue to hold the vision of Unity of South Sound as a thriving ministry that is supported abundantly by our members through automation of consistent intentional giving.
- **Board Leadership Follow-up:** As we enter into September and our full fall calendar of events, it will be important to stay focused on our intentions and what we are inviting our membership into participation with. I see us continuing our “Power of Focused Ministry” leadership process to discern our WHY statement and establish our primary focus areas of development by the end of 2023. I also invite us all into deepening our relationship with each other as we evolve as the leadership team of USS. Building connections with each other will stimulate the creative flow within us collectively☺. As we gather for our next leadership connection, Sept 29th, I support the time for ‘being’ with each other in unity.
- **UWM ‘Let’s Grow Together’** monthly prosperity zoom sessions: I have no new info from this program this month. (Legacy brochure draft ready to edit...)
- **YFM:** Lot’s on the calendar involving our YFM coming up! All kids age groups will be following the FIA theme lessons from Essential Spirituality Oct-Nov and the Gratitude Sunday Nov 19 into holiday themes through the end of the year in conjunction with our adult messages.
 - The YOU will provide the annual Pancake Breakfast after service Sunday, Oct 1st – our FIA kick-off week. It is a fundraiser for their youth camp programs and retreats.
 - Halloween night – Oct 31, they will host a “Trunk or Treat” in our parking lot from 6-8pm. A great way to connect with our neighborhood!
 - Sunday, Dec 24 – YFM will provide the morning ‘message’ with a play based on ‘The Little Drummer Boy and The 12 Powers’. The plan is to make this a family Sunday for all, with a cookie exchange for hospitality. The music team and other adults will be part of the play.
- **Faith-In-Action update:** Here are the plans set into motion to date – with action needed referenced:
 - 7-Week program based on the book “Essential Spirituality” by Roger Walsh; Oct 1 – Nov 12 with study groups meeting each week. Study Guide Booklets ready to distribute.
 - I have ordered 20 of the books to sell to congregants for convenience. Pre-paid reservation of a book will be available Sundays beginning 9/17, with book availability for pick-up hopefully by 9/24. Books will be first pay, first receive until gone.
 - Study Groups set to open for sign-ups beginning Sunday, Sept 10. We have 5 groups with facilitators set with the intention of having at least 1 more made available before we begin Oct 1st.
 - Facilitator Training confirmed for Tuesday, Sept 26 at 7pm via Zoom. Rev. Meghan will lead with Candace Roebbecke assisting as the FIA Facilitator Coordinator. Training Guide ready to share.
 - Oct 1 1st week Kick-Off:
 - New Member Sunday Ceremony – at least 4 new members, perhaps a few more to be confirmed.
 - YFM Pancake breakfast after service in downstairs banquet hall.
 - Prosperity Silent Auction Event planned for Sat, Nov 11 6-9pm: We are naming this social event - “*Soulful Soiree: Elevate, Celebrate and Co-Create* - the Abundance of Unity of South Sound.

You are invited to join us for a Silent Auction, Music, Dancing and Lite-Bites as we gather to enhance our ministry's prosperity. Tickets via Eventbrite: \$35 – intention to cover costs with Silent Auction proceeds 100% to USS.

Auction Items to include: 7 individual paintings created by our own artists from the inspiration received from last year's Creative Life program. Each one representing a stage of creation (artist's will write a description and provide an estimated value to start bidding). Also some additional fun activities like a sunset boat ride and salmon dinner for 4 people!

Organization: Costs to be covered by ticket sales – food, hi-top table rental, DJ and materials.


- Jennifer Richardson is overseeing the food purchase and prep and hi-top table rental pickup/return. All food will be lite appetizer bites and dessert bites with YOU serving on trays, also a food/bev station on the perimeter.
 - Barbara Bauml, Carl and Artists overseeing the decoration set-up and Silent Auction set-up. Using twinkling lights and a few bud vases along with faux plants in and around the auction and mingling stations/chairs.
 - Music DJ – Michele Zwosta has a lead, waiting for confirmation.
 - Printing and distribution of information – office/Heidi
- Pledge Campaign Timeframe: 4 -weeks beginning Oct 22 – Nov 12, so we can celebrate our gratitude Nov 19, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Short window to focus our intention of inspiring all members to make a financial commitment moving forward. Pledge Cards, Plan Template and Description Flier sent previously for review prior to our meeting. Plan is to introduce at our Oct 15th Community Sharing Q & A, send a short letter from the minister with the pledge description attached and shared in the E-Blast before we begin, along with the Pledge Form. The form and description will also be at our PLEDGE Table each Sunday during the 4-week campaign. See documents detailing the plan and shared material.
 - Creative Expression: Carl Andrews has offered to make a life size (about 7ft) 'tree of life' with 7 branches to represent each week. We will have it standing in the area to the right of the sanctuary seating before entering into Wesley Hall by the Pledge Table. He is making little wooden cutouts of flowers & fruits to hang on the tree representing our pledge donors. One for each card returned with the person choosing their 'fruit', writing their name on it and placing it on the tree. The Tree will be ready for week 1 to display, with the added fruit of our abundance being added from week 4-7. Each week's theme will be added to a branch as we progress – with a growth chart displayed based on dollar amounts pledged in weeks 4-7.
- **Testimonial Videos:** Seeing this happen during the 4-weeks of our Pledge Campaign – a perfect time to hear from our members☺ If we can establish who may be willing to record from a phone, I will ensure we have a handout with 3 specific questions for each testimonial to focus on for consistent content. I will then have them edited with added background music and text from the statements.
 - **Diversity Training:** I have no new information. I will seek time to explore easy online options to plan in the future with the best cost factor.
 - **De-Escalation Training Follow-up:** I have not heard officially the Harmony Helpers have re-activated. I am hoping there is an initiative to reach out to past members to bring them together again. From that team I would envision the follow-up with our posted evacuation routes, and safety protocol if danger ever escalated. Note: The fire extinguisher missing has been reported to our landlords, so it is in their hands. Any other action items I am unaware of at this time. It feels this area is in a bit of limbo. *Do we have a board member willing to take oversight on this need?*
 - **Pastoral Care:** I continue to support multiple members of our spiritual community in health challenges. It is a blessing to claim this 'is mine to do'. I schedule time to send affirmative prayers each week and/or call as is preferred by the person.

- **Music:** I have shared a list of 12 new songs for our music team to begin learning. They received the written lyrics, music chart and artist recording to use in becoming familiar with the songs before we begin introducing on Sunday's. I also had a very creative meeting with Joey Sandall-Hill (Music Team Lead) and Serni Solidarios (Music Director) and Michele Zwosta recently. We discussed the expansion of our music program and song selection choices for congregational songs. It assisted in clarifying the roles of our music team and team lead in collaboration with myself. Moving forward I will share my Sunday theme plans with Joey and the song leaders so they can have more notice to consider song choices that coordinate with my message each week. It is understood I have overall decision of the Sunday service plans and may make specific requests for songs that best fit the message. I am also available to review new song possibilities to ensure good fits for congregational songs, versus better as a choir or soloist piece. It was decided it would be fun to have a music sing-a-long event for anyone who loves to sing to come join our music team to sing through songs from our song list to get to know them better -- also an opportunity to recruit new song team members!
**Also another exciting addition to our music program coming soon! Singer Songwriter ChristineEss Young agreed to take on writing a special song for USS based on our Mission/Vision/Core Values, to be sung by all as we come back from our Namaste' Greeting...I've heard the draft, it is fun and uplifting and will be an inspirational way to live our mission/vision/core values together as a community! Maybe we can introduce it during our FIA this fall☺

I know I've shared a lot, but a lot is in the works and in the flow as we move forward. It will be up to all of us to ensure our plan unfolds in meaningful and empowering ways, resulting in success for our ministry. One intentional step at a time, we are establishing 'the power of focused ministry'! I am deeply grateful for each of you, your presence and your commitment, to the abundance enfoldment of our spiritual community.

In gratitude,

Rev. Meghan

From: Steve Ryan BoardTreasurer@unityofsouthsound.org 
Subject: USS August 2023 Financial Report
Date: September 12, 2023 at 1:26 PM
To: USS Board of Trustees Board@unityofsouthsound.org



The Unity of South Sound August Financial Report begins with the Balance Sheet as of August 1, 2023. While we would hope to see an increase in our assets month over month, this isn't the time. Total assets at month end were down \$3,130 from the prior month end to \$177,313. Our Edward Jones investment account was down \$12,934 to \$74,855 while our operating cash account at Global Credit Union (formerly Alaska CU) was up \$9,803 to \$10,321. It should be noted that there were two transfers from the Investment Account to the Checking Account totaling \$11,000. Meanwhile, our only liabilities (attributable to payroll taxes) crept up a bit to \$2,088. We are looking into the continually increasing liability as there may be a posting issue that is not correctly reducing the liability each quarter.

The August 2023 Profit & Loss (Budget vs Actual) shows our Tithes and Love Offerings for the month approaching 100% of budget just \$94 short of the \$17,600 budget. This banner moment was chiefly due to a designated gift to Youth Ed in the amount of \$4,725. Overall income was only \$1,045 short of budget at \$18,785 for the month. Expenses were actually \$66 under budget (99.66%) There was a \$768 operating loss for the month.

The Year to Date Profit & Loss (Budget vs Actual) through August 31, 2023, reflects nearly \$20k in higher income than the prior year. However, since the budget increased for 2023, we find our income is trailing budget by \$27,948 similar to the prior year. At the same time, expenses are at 102% of budget leaving us with a year to date operating loss of \$31,376.

To close the operating loss gap through the end of the year, we need to target a combined increase in tithing and fund raising of around \$30,000. If we were able to increase monthly tithing by \$2,500 then we would be left with a fund raising goal of \$20,000, very doable in a world of aligned "underbuddies."

Blessings,

Steve Ryan
Board Treasurer, Unity of South Sound

3 Month	Budget vs	Budget vs
Balanc...23.xlsx	Actual...23.xlsx	Actual...23.xlsx
	60 KB	