**Unitarian Church of Edmonton Board  
Minutes of meeting of Nov. 15, 2023**

Present: president Brandie Moller-Reid, secretary Susan Ruttan, treasurer Andrew Mills, past-president Mike Keast, trustees Zoe Larsen, Marilyn Gaa, Lynn Wolff and Gerard Hayduk. Also, Rev. Rosemary Morrison .

Opening words, Chalice lighting: Rev. Morrison. **NOTE**: Members discussed possibly having different members do the opening/closing words of each meeting.  
Approval of agenda: One new item added, 90th birthday party for Dorothy Keeler. Moved by Susan, seconded by Lynn, approved.

The October 2023 minutes were approved by email on Oct. 31, 2023, moved by Marilyn Gaa, seconded by Susan Ruttan. Also voting, Zoe Larsen, Lynn Wolff and Mike Keast.  
The November 2023 minutes were approved by email on Nov. 17, 2023, moved by Mike Keast, seconded by Andrew Mills. Also voting, Zoe Larsen, Gerard Hayduk, Lynn Wolff, Susan Ruttan and Brandie Moller-Reid.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. List of Sharing Our Abundance Charities for 2024: moved by Susan, seconded by Andrew, that the list be approved with two changes: the October charity will be the Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society, rather than the UN-UNO. The November charity will be Edmonton’s Food Bank, rather than CBC Make the Season Kind. APPROVED. (full list at bottom of these minutes)
2. Storage Problems for the Dragging Youth group. This group has a lot of stuff stored in the room off the sanctuary that is for choir chairs and bridge tables. The board agreed that the stuff must be moved. It approved the idea of having the Dragging stuff go in the large empty room in the mezzanine.   
   **AFTER THE MEETING**: Past-president Mike Keast, who missed the original discussion, suggested another idea to president Brandie: move the materials for the DRE (Director of Child and Youth Religious Exploration) program from its first-floor closet to the mezzanine room. Then the Dragging Youth stuff could go into the empty DRE closet.

**ONGOING BUSINESS**

* 1. Board learning, section 2. Board members discussed this section.
  2. Update on the first standard from the Membership Policy task team.
  3. Minister Emeritus status for our former minister, Rev. Brian Kiely. Mike said this will be a process, with discussions with the congregation over months, then a vote at the Annual General Meeting in May. Moved by Brandie, seconded by Lynn, that the board start the process to make Rev. Kiely our minister emeritus. Approved.
  4. Hosting the CanUUdle weekend next May. The CUC has extended its search for a coordinator for this event. Mike, who was around for the last time we did this, said we don’t have to worry, it will work out.
  5. Update on choir leader Gordon Ritchie’s health issue. No decisions yet on how much church work he can handle, and when.
  6. Party for Dorothy Keeler’s 90th birthday. Dorothy’s daughter wants to hold a birthday party for her mother in our church next March. Board members agreed that the church should be part of this event, with no rent charge to the family. Date to be determined – Rev. Rosemary is away the weekend of March 2-3. Administrator Janet will talk to the daughter. Dorothy has been an active member of UCE for 60-plus years.

**REPORTS**-- Finance: Andrew says finances look good. Mike suggested that the carpet in the space of our Open Doors tenant needs replacing. He and Andrew will talk.  
-- Minister’s report: printed  
-- Human Resources: Lynn said the committee is planning a congregational survey to ask people what they think the church wants, now that our DRE position is vacant. She said one idea the committee considered was a sexton: a church employee who takes care of the church property.  
-- New or Resigned Members: none.

**Closing words**: Rev. Morrison   
**Adjourn.** Next meeting: Jan. 17, 2023 ZOOM link to be announced later. *Clarification needed as to who can open a Zoom board meeting.*

**ATTACHMENTS**

**Sharing Our Abundance Chart for 2024**

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| --- | --- |
| **Month** | **Approved for 2024** |
| January | Change for Children |
| February | iHuman Youth Society |
| March | International Convocation of UU Women (ICW)  Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC)\* |
| April | Child Haven International\* |
| May | Youth Employment and Support Services (YESS) |
| June | George Spady Centre |
| July | Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation (CEASE) |
| August | Boyle Street Co-op |
| September | Camp Fyrefly |
| October | Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society |
| November | Edmonton’s Food Bank |
| December | Minister’s Discretionary Fund |
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We, the members of the UCE board, will:

-- Adhere to the Canadian UU Eight Principles;  
-- Listen deeply and with an open mind;  
-- Speak without being defensive;   
-- Speak with kindness and respect;  
-- Assume positive intent;  
-- Ask for what we need and offer what we can;  
-- Communicate decisions to the congregation in a way that reflects the process and considerations that went into the decision;  
-- Make decisions in the best interest of the congregation and set aside personal agendas;  
-- Respect board decisions, and if asked about a decision or issue, fairly reflect the discussion, demonstrate support for the board, and focus on next steps.

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