

“DRAFT”

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County

Annual Business Meeting Minutes:

June 5, 2022

Call to Order – the meeting was called to order by President Mary Case at 12:45 a.m. with the lighting of the chalice and opening words.

Quorum – The quorum was established: out of 90 members 40 were present including those by proxy.

Approval of the 2022 minutes – the minutes of the 2021 meeting were presented. Kathy Link made a motion to accept the minutes. Sharon Goodwin seconded the motion. The motion passed.

President’s Report – President Mary Case reported much had changed in the last seven years she had last served as President. In the past, there had been the “A” Team, and everyone pitched in, and things were done unofficially. Out of 91 current members, 29 have joined since 2015. The newer members favor a more centralized approach. Mary went on to say that we cannot comprehend what the pandemic did to our Fellowship yet. We were confined for 15 months beginning with March 2020. While Zoom services offered a lifeline, some struggled to make it work. Emotions ran high about finally meeting in person in July 2021. Questions remain. During our time meeting exclusively on Zoom, little structure was needed. As we transition back to normal, we are in a period of transition as we return to what will become normal. Suzette Tardif is an extraordinary person to move the Fellowship forward.

Presentation of Gift – Suzette Tardif presented Mary with a gift from the Board and thanked her for her service and leadership.

Treasurer’s Report – Stan Blazyk presented the proposed Budget for 2022-2023. Stan stated, as presented in the Budget, we ended the year in

a surplus. Stan reported that large expenses were coming up but that there should be adequate funds to pay for them. Stan additionally stated that the categories on the Budget were created by Neil, and consideration was being given to eliminating some categories, and changing others. Questions were asked about the separate line item for the “Bowlers.” Jerry Fryyear asked about why interest income was so low. Stan explained that the Fellowship, in the past, had been very conservative about investments which yielded little interest. Stan and Margaret Canavan answered questions about the differences in money pledged, money received and the cash plate. Lance Beauchamp stated that there was a lack of clarity about the descriptions. Lance volunteered to be on the Finance Committee. There was also discussion about the “Designated Funds.” Suzette Tardif explained that the Board had voted to eliminate that section. Margaret Canavan made a motion to accept the Budget. Susan Syler seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Bookkeeping—Mary Case stated that a search had been made for a bookkeeper who specialized in nonprofits. Mary explained that Cody Wright had been located and that she would charge \$375.00 to record items in Quickbooks. Mary reported that the Board had approved this expenditure. After discussion, Sue Minello made a motion to accept the Board’s decision. Diane Olson seconded and the motion passed.

Committee Reports – The following committee reports were presented.

Caring Committee –Jo Ross

The mission of the Caring Committee is to “provide resources that allow the Fellowship to best care for the sick, comfort the grieving, celebrate the successful, help those going through difficult times, and make every member feel like a member of a loving family.”

The active members of the committee are Suzette Tardif, Martha Terrill, Carol Lobb, Bruce Mauzy, and Jo Ross.

Early in 2022, the committee chair, Suzette Tardif, asked Bruce Mauzy and Jo Ross if they would consider taking over for her, as she had increasing

responsibilities within the Fellowship. They were happy to accept and become part of this dedicated group.

The committee held a meeting via Zoom on March 7, 2022, and discussed strategies, care assignments, and other topics. The group consensus was to hold meetings as needed, instead of on a regular schedule.

During the past fiscal year, the committee responded to the illness and bereavement of 18 Fellowship members. Committee activities included, but were not limited to, making calls and sending texts, arranging for the delivery of flower arrangements, preparing and mailing condolence and get-well cards, providing and scheduling rides to the Fellowship and to necessary venues, preparing and delivering food, ordering food, making in-person visits (with respect to the Covid situation), and providing long-term care needs, if possible and as needed. No memorial donations were made during the fiscal year.

One of the Caring Committee's challenges is receiving timely information about the needs of Fellowship members and how they wish to receive care. The committee has begun to request announcements in an order of service each month and had an announcement in the weekly newsletter.

As a note -- The Outreach Team that was formed during the pandemic was disbanded as Covid wound down.

Membership Committee – Margaret Canavan

At present we have 90 members.

Accomplishments of the Membership Team for 2021-2022:

Administrative Duties:

1. Maintained membership records at UUA.
2. Completed the required annual process for certification of our Fellowship with UUA.
3. Maintained Breeze membership database

4. Continued to educate members about using Breeze for connections and information.
5. Maintained membership directory, with photographs, on Breeze.
6. Provided name tags for members, and friends to who attend service frequently.
7. Maintained photo wall of current members.
8. Maintained supply of UU pamphlets and updated displays.
9. Purchased new supply of blue UU t-shirts.
10. Through mid-year, committee chair managed weekly Zoom debrief and planning meetings.
11. Committee chair enrolled facilitators for each Sunday service, through May.

Spiritual Growth and Membership Development:

1. Oriented persons interested in membership
2. Provided ingathering ceremony for those ready to join.
3. Committee chair planned and facilitated groups for spiritually-focused discussion among members and other interested persons, and enrolled another members as a group facilitator.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE – Mary Case

The biggest change during the past year has been, of course, returning to meeting in person after our COVID confinement. At the same time I became acquainted with a service, Sou IMatters, which has provided us with monthly themes plus materials to support our Sunday services as well as our small groups such as Chalice Circles. As they say:

No one can do church alone. We're here to help!

By developing, researching, curating and crowd-sourcing theme-based resources, we enable congregational leaders to save time, deepen their work and offer more impactful ministry to the world. As a subscriber, you don't just get materials to use. You get partners to travel with you.

Welcome to our web of support and connection!

In addition, one of our regular speakers for the past five years, Rev. Bob Tucker, has completely retired from his duties here in Galveston. He first

spoke to us in November of 2014, shortly after I became Program Chair. We have enjoyed quite an array of different speakers and musicians.

To look forward, Soul Matters has published next year's theme's:

Intro: What paths must we lean into and relearn as we travel together into our complex, challenging and hoped for future? This is the overarching question our 2022-23 themes invite us to explore! Each theme will lift up a particular spiritual path crucial to helping us birth a new normal worthy of our hopes.

In particular, we will explore the challenges and paths of...

September: Belonging

October: Courage

November: Change

December: Wonder

January: Finding Our Center

February: Love

March: Vulnerability

April: Resistance

May: Creativity

June: Delight

I think we can look forward to continuing our "...free and responsible search for truth and meaning."

PUBLICITY – Madeleine Baker

The activities of the Publicity committee, at least my end of it, the non-Facebook non-online part, consists of weekly ad content for our Wednesday ads, content for the print ads we put in the Galveston Symphony Orchestra program, and forwarding photos to the "Applause" editor of the Daily News showing us delivering Compassionate Collection checks to recipients.

Bowler information has been included in the Social Action report in the past; perhaps it's under its own category now. We have expanded our

hours over the past year from 2 to 3 hours weekly, 3-6 on Wednesdays. Once the requisite number of soup bowls had been completed (~400) we looked for another project so that the bowlers could continue to meet. We selected the community garden, Seeding Galveston, as the organization to support. We did not meet for a month while new plaster molds were created for the salad bowls. We use plaster molds to make our bowls, and the shape and size needed to change. We delivered 82 bowls to Seeding Galveston for their upcoming fundraiser on May 21. We will continue meeting during the summer.

NEWSLETTER – Maggie Pinson

The purpose of this committee is to share information about monthly and weekly Sunday services as well as news and updates in writing to UU members and friends that subscribe to the “Monthly Newsletter” and Weekly Announcements. To subscribe, visit the UU Galveston website at <https://www.uugalveston.org/newsletter.php> . You can find past copies of the Monthly Newsletters and the Weekly Announcements on our website under the “News and Events” tab under “This Week,” and “Monthly Newsletters.”

Margaret Canavan has been functioning in the role of Newsletter Editor for many years. During the pandemic and before, Margaret has worked with Shannon Samuelson, a part-time employee, to produce these publications. Both Margaret and Shannon deserve the lion’s share of credit for developing a system to collect information, write it up, and produce regular, timely publications.

In about May of 2021, Margaret began teaching me how to put together written material for these publications and coordinate with Shannon who has formatted the newsletters using Mail Chimp newsletter software, scheduled email transmission to subscribers, and posted the publications to the UU Galveston website. So, I have been hands-on with the newsletters for about one year, with Margaret as advisor.

You may be aware that Shannon Samuelson, a former UU member and long-term part-time employee, has accepted the position of Assistant

Director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) in Galveston. She began her new position at the end of May 2022. When we learned she would not be able to continue working part-time, I offered to take on the Mail Chimp newsletter software process as well as writing content for the publications. Margaret Canavan is still functioning as my proofreader and Mail Chimp advisor.

The position of Newsletter Editor does not have formal term limits. At some point, I will want to hand off these responsibilities to an Administrative Assistant and/or interested UU member. If anyone would be interested in this position in the future, please contact me or a member of the Board.

The content of the newsletter is dependent upon UU committee leaders, Board members and others to provide news and events updates. To those of you that regularly contribute, thank you! Your input will always be necessary, regardless of how the newsletter is produced. Also, many thanks to those of you with sharp eyes that report errors or have suggestions for the content or format of the publications. Input is always welcome!

SOCIAL ACTION – Susan Syler

The Social Action Committee would like to thank y'all for your generosity in donations and time.

Compassionate Offerings:

This year to date, a total of \$5,549.86 has been collected for the following:

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|-------------|---------------------|------------|
| • July -- | Artist Boat | \$444.00 |
| • August -- | Gal. Humane Society | \$455.00 |
| • September | First UU – NOLA | \$551.41 |
| • October | ACCT | \$317.00 |
| • November | Gal. Diaper Bank | \$350.00 |
| • December | Meals on Wheels | \$1,241.00 |
| • January | UTMB Care Closet | \$401.00 |
| • February | Central Methodist | \$550.00 |
| • March | Casa Juan Diego | \$406.00 |
| • April | ADA House | \$834.45 |

- May Seeding Galveston
- June GUM
- July Libbie's Place

Activities:

- Approximately 20 people volunteered with Feed Galveston to help pack 50,000 serving of nutritious food for the Galveston Food Bank in September.
- ACCT Luncheon – Numerous members served a lasagna lunch in October at ACCT at their first luncheon had post-pandemic. We have another luncheon scheduled for June 23, 2022. All volunteers are welcome.
- MLK Day of Service – through a partnership with Moody Menders, 15 volunteers scraped and painted a house across the street from Avenue L Baptist Church for a long-time member of the Avenue L Baptist Church
- Gastrochurch has held two dinners at our Fellowship and has one more scheduled for later this year.
- We've formed a relationship with Central Church and hope to be involved with their project of transitional housing just a few blocks away from the Fellowship.

Bowls: Bowlers completed 400 soup bowls for Jesse Tree, and recently completed 80 salad bowls for Seeding Galveston's successful fundraising event.

The Social Action Committee continues to seek avenues in which our members can volunteer in the community. To that end, Shirley Adams and Susan Syler are attending meetings with the Galveston Ministerial Alliance.

WELCOMING CONGREGATION COMMITTEE – Michelle Bennett

Committee Members are: Michelle Bennett (Chair), Jay Englishbee, James Johnson, Pam Johnson, AJ Price, Suzette Tardif and Ali Tranquili

The committee's goal was to regain UUA designation as "A Welcoming Congregation" to indicate our ongoing commitment to LGBTQ+ welcome and inclusion, and ensure the required practices and designation renewal became ongoing fellowship practice. We first met on September 13, 2021 and began planning. The designation requires five practices:

- Practice 1 – Become a Welcoming Congregation: our fellowship originally became A Welcoming Congregation in 2013 thanks to the hard work of Welcoming Congregation Co-Chairs Bev Frannea and Curtis Jones and the original committee members.
- Practice 2 - Welcoming Worship Services: Although there were more to choose from, we submitted two, the first from our own AJ Price titled “Taking Out Our Mental TRASH” given on July 25, 2021. The second (arranged by Pam Johnson), was Reverend Kiya Heartwood titled “Since Stonewall” given on October 31, 2021.
- Practice 3 – Welcoming Days of Observation: We met this criteria through candle lightings during Joys, Sorrows and Concerns, and recognition notices in the Weekly Announcements and Monthly Newsletters.
- Practice 4 – Welcoming Religious Education: We chose “Pay It No Mind – The Life and Times of Marsha P. Johnson” as our UUA approved WC module. This was shown via Zoom on October 29, 2021. Attendance requirement was 10% of membership and that goal was easily met with approximately 25 members attending.
- Practice 5 – Support a Welcoming Project: We met this criteria through a designated month Charitable Contribution to ACCT, as well as member financial participation in the annual ACCT gala.

We submitted the renewal form to UUA on November 23, 2021 and received word from Reverend Michael Crumpler, LGBTQ and Multicultural Programs Director for UUA on December 13, 2021 that we successfully completed the Five Practices of Welcome Renewal for 2021.

BUILDING/FACILITIES – TOM HALL

Tom reported that the members of the Committee were him, Mitch Philpott and Jay Englishbee. Items discussed were the replacement of the roof and a sewer issue. Tom reported that when the old roof was removed, that the duct work over the Bowl Room could be looked at. The sewer issue was discussed at length and whether or not clay particles from the bowlers was contributing to the issue. Tom stated that the plumber had been out several times. Tom also stated that there

were nuisance items such as termites by the emergency door, the door lock issue, etc. Questions were asked about having the ducts cleaned, lighting in the hallway and the possibility of solar panels.

PROPOSED REVISION OF BYLAWS

The changes to the Bylaws were discussed. Bets Anderson made a motion to accept the proposed Bylaws with a change to Article VII. Sharon Goodwin seconded the motion. The motion passed.

REVIEW OF HEALTH/SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Suzette Tardif gave an overview of the safety protocols that have been in place during the Covid pandemic. Suzette stated that Covid was now endemic, and that cases and severity would wax and wane. She additionally stated that a large portion of Galveston County had some sort of immunity. She suggested that the Fellowship consider relaxing the vaccination requirement while keeping in place a mask-required section in the sanctuary. A lengthy discussion ensued. Madeleine Baker made a motion that the vaccination requirement be discontinued. Sharon Goodwin seconded the motion. Stan Blazyk requested that the motion be modified that we operate on the honor system and retain the mask required section. The motion passed.

There was also a discussion about making the zoom service non-participatory. Margaret Canavan made a motion to retain the current process. Sharon Goodwin seconded the motion. The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF ROOF BID

Mary Case stated that the roof bid should not exceed \$40,000. Kathy Link made a motion to accept the bid. Sandra Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion passed.

NOMINATIONS OF NEW BOARD NOMINEES

The following nominees were presented.

President	Suzette Tardif
President-Elect	Shirley Adams
Treasurer	Maggie Pinson
Member at Large	Sharon Goodwin

A motion was made, seconded and approved.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15.