

# AUUF BOARD MEETING - November 16, 2022 Final

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**Board Members Present [via zoom]** : Don Antrobus – President, Kalen Saxton – Vice President, James Dryden – Secretary, Sid McCausland - Treasurer, Kathy Lucich, and Jim Kerr

**Others Present** : Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, Dr. Ray Macfarlane, Dennis Arashiro, John McKay, Peggy Robinson

## 6:33pm A. Call to Order/Agenda

Agenda adopted without objection after addition of three items by the chair.

## 6:50pm B. Consent Agenda Items

**Move** by Kathy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sid, to adopt the minutes of last meeting including edits in the Dropbox and the addition of a sentence offering some reason for the budget increase after DLE hiring. Passed 6:0.

**Move** by Kalen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kathy, to adopt the minutes of the May 2022 AUUF Annual Meeting with edits in the Dropbox. Passed without objection.

## 6:56pm C. Continued Business

### 1. Auction Report:

We raised approximately \$16,000 which is over our \$15,000 goal. Response was wonderful. Software from School Auction was very good, and it is recommended that we subscribe again. The current charge is \$1500/year. We also used it for the Alliance and Alternative Gift Fair. Thank you to all those who worked to bring the online auction together this year especially Peggy Robinson, Carma Reed, Cathy Steen, Mara Hill, and Robin Hill.

### 2. COVID update – Rev. Lise & Don

There is no new input from Safer Congregation Team on masking policy. Nearly all are masking at the worship services. No big plus or minus on this issue this month. We will be following the safe congregation draft until further notice.

### 3. AUUF Annual Dinner and Awards: Post-Op Review

Changing our previous practices and having the AUUF Annual Dinner after the online auction worked out very well for everyone. We conducted the raffle drawings and presented our three annual outstanding member awards. Don is still finalizing the award write-ups and arranging the updates to the brass plaques. The board extends a major thank you to Kathy and Kalen for their work on the awards and organizing the dinner.

### 4. Attitude of Gratitude Status Update – Kathy

The team of five had a great meeting and built a fine display across from the coffee area with tree and leaves of gratitude on the wall. The display is well done with detachable leaves so individuals can write a note of specific thanks and hang a leaf. Rev. Lise will introduce it to the congregation this Sunday. Hopefully it produces the increase in gratitude which we're trying to stimulate.

### 5. Drop Box Update – James

Shellie seems to be too busy. The pressing issues seem to have been cured for now, so James recommends this be dropped from future agendas.

### 6. A-V Tech status – Sid & Lise

There are no new volunteers. Sid can't do as much as he had been doing. Current volunteers (Bonnie, Jocelyn, Sid, etc.) are overloaded. Rev. Lise discussed this with fellow ministers at a

recent conference and it's a common problem. Many are resorting to hiring professionals. We might find some youths who would like to be involved. We might consider paying youth like we do child care helpers. Workers below age 16 have restrictions and we need to consider the problems of paying some volunteers and not others. HR should weigh in on any such plan.

Rev. Lise had been taking the lead on filling the A/V Tech position but needs to focus on other matters. Hiring an A/V tech needs to be pushed back to the HR committee.

**7. Construction Loan Pre-payment – Sid**

We currently have about \$17,500 in donations which is 35% of the way towards the \$50,000 match goal. There are still about 45 days to go. Don suggested it is time to mail out some thank you notes. It would need about 18 notes. Don & Sid decided to split the task.

**8. Grounds Master Plan and Playground: Don/Rev Lise**

There was a productive meeting of those interested in the playground improvement project. The meeting is covered in the reports. The group decided to work on the area between the shed and the existing play equipment first. A task force is being organized and there are volunteers. Peter has been working pro-bono to this point, but it is time to hire him if we expect him to continue to participate. This will be one of the first decisions of the task force.

**9. Janitorial Services Contract**

Don reports that there were three bids received. It is unclear what scope of work was given to the vendors. We have \$12,500/year in the budget. We received bids that were slightly more, much more, and even more. The best plan would probably be to have a deep clean once a week on Friday only. Trying to have a partial clean on Sunday does not fit well with usual janitorial service practices. Shellie and Rev. Lise will pursue this.

**10. Building and Grounds Projects – James**

No items for discussion beyond the Building & Grounds report in this month's board packet. We've finished our major projects for the season which ended up including lighting, paving, new shed, new snow guards on the roof, and the repairs of the car damage.

**11. Finance : Deficit status – Sid**

Sid re-emphasized that we have a budget deficit that has grown. At the annual meeting, we estimated that we had pledges of \$305,000 towards our budgeted \$307,000. At this time, it appears that a better estimate is about \$290,000 due to members moving or needing to alter their pledges. This means that the projected deficit of \$45,000 may be \$60,000.

**7:55pm D. New Business****1. Honorarium Payment for Forum – John McKay**

The Sunday Forum is requesting clarification of the policy regarding paying ordained ministers if they speak at the forum. The forum has always had the policy that we don't pay speakers, but ministers have been an exception to that. AUUF has paid some in the past and has not paid at other times. The Forum committee feels that ministers should be paid an honorarium when performing ministerial functions like a sermon or wedding but that speaking on some secular matter such as homelessness is not a function that should require payment of an honorarium to a minister. Dennis Arashiro proposed some language –

*Religious professionals giving featured Sunday service presentations based on professional education, expertise and experience are deemed to be practicing their profession and therefore, deserving of just compensation.*

This issue will take some consideration. The matter will be taken up next meeting.

**2. Stewardship - Peggy**

We need to consider our approach to pledging more deeply than in the past. Why do we have so little response to pledge pressure? Why do we have such a deficit of volunteers? Why do we have UU's in Anchorage who do not join AUUF? The Stewardship Committee has some ideas like small discussion groups. If we are talking about surveys, we need to be prepared to act on the results of such surveys.

**3. Employee Health Insurance – Rev. Lise**

Dr. Ray and Rev. Lise feel that AUUF might give them better health insurance if AUUF dropped the current UUA provider and allowed the employees to seek individual Bronze ACA policies. AUUF would adjust the salaries to compensate. The plan seems compatible with our employee practices in the past but there are details that the HR committee needs to resolve including the impact on the other employees.

**8:40pm Staff and Committee/Team Reports in Dropbox - Discussion**

All reports thankfully accepted.

**9:05pm Adjourned** by Chair w/o objection

**Next Meetings:**

Program Council, Tuesday, November 29, 6:00-8:00 pm

Agenda Setting Meeting, Thursday, December 15, 5:30-6:00pm

Board Meeting, Wednesday, December 21, 6:30-8:30pm

Respectfully submitted by James Dryden, Secretary