AUUF BOARD MEETING - October 22, 2025

Board Members Present: Doug Eby – Treasurer, Mel Langdon – Secretary, Marty Freeman, George Bryson **Absent:** Justin Roberts – President, Don Antrobus – Vice President, David O'Brien

Others Present: Rev. Lise, DRE Jennifer Bluntach

6:30pm A. Call to Order/Agenda

After brief personal check-ins, a chalice lighting by George and Rev. Lise, and land acknowledgment by Marty, Doug called the meeting to order. The planning agenda for the awards/annual dinner and an executive session for HR was added to the proposed agenda, and it was adopted.

6:40pm B. Consent Agenda

1. **Approval of the September 17, 2025, Meeting Minutes –** The minutes were approved.

6:45pm C. Continued Business

1. **Review of September Financials** See Report submitted from the Financial Committee. Contracting with Foraker is moving forward; see item 4 below. The following were brought to the attention of the board for discussion. The change to Foraker as accountant may require additional time from Administrator (this potential was built into the budget). Income from pledges is down, a new rental starts in January but rents overall are still down, there is some under-spending, but overall the projected end-of-year deficit is $40 to $80k. (Rev Lise says some new rentals are occurring.) The Financial Committee report noted that this is not unforeseen, as during budgeting we had planned as fallback to use reserves, but only for one year. Now that we are fully staffed and have a robust RE program, we anticipate a better position over time. There was discussion on needing to ramp up the New Revenue committee and consult with a marketing professional for better web and social presence. Need to reassemble a Stewardship committee, which will coordinate the pledge drive and also do follow-up with members. Marty will contact the Nominating Committee to find 1-2 champions and several more committee members. Doug will help. Other recommendations are to communicate our financial position with members; possibly on an ongoing basis, such as a short summary (income, expenses, projection of end of year situation) in TAOF.

2. **Board Administrative Discussion and Decisions**

    a. New Board Member. Confirmed David O'Brien appointment to fill Kath's vacancy. Unanimous agreement.

    b. Bank Account/Dropbox Access. Mel and Don are signatories on FNB and CU 1 accounts. George has been able to access Drop box. No other issues.

    c. Clarifying terms for Marty and David joining the Board. Section 5.4(1) of Bylaws says the vacancies will be filled for the remainder of the term, which for both positions is June 2027. When we asked for their help, we told Marty and David it would just be a year, ending June 2026, with confirmation at annual meeting. We are asking Marty and David to considering filling until June 2027. George, Doug, and Mel are supportive of following the bylaws, with terms ending June 2027 to maintain continuity and avoid an election of 5 members. If both Marty and David agree, we will inform congregation and there will be no need for an election for those 2 seats on the board.

3. **Awards Planning** Marty passed out and went over agenda, tasks, and responsibilities. She passed out awards nominations and there was discussion. We decided to honor 2 people for both the VOY and Fred Hillman awards,and the Shirley Dickson award to one nominee.

4. **Foraker Group assistance** We are moving forward with an agreement with Foraker and it should be in place in a week. They will likely do the October financials. They may also be a source for training and development opportunities.

5. **Program Council report** George provided feedback from the Program council meeting. Justin presented on social justice pillars. Whale Coast had fewer in July than June, which affected the expected revenue. The number that the tour will take will now be 30, down from 40. The Alliance representative said they have money to support some activities. We discussed our appreciation for the Alliance's support of Peace Camp and options for ways for the Alliance to help, including subsidizing Fall frolic (could offset current deficit or help offset food expenses or the proposed cap of fees for families next year) and Peace Camp support. Jenn will talk to Katherine. We might also ask Alliance to help fund a marketing plan.

6. **Visitor/New Member Outreach** Rev Lise has been coordinating with the Connections team. FYWITF 3-class session starts next week. Some discussion how pledging should be included in information to attendees. Three people have recently talked to Rev Lise about membership/contributing. Rev Lise will plan to welcome new members at a worship service in November or December. We also discussed pitching AAUF with people we know or even meet at various events. Members who are part of events hosted at the fellowship, such as AK Citizens Action Project and Anchorage Against Christian Nationalism, could give a brief statement before those meetings.

7. **Website** The new website still needs some tweaks but is expected to roll out by the end of the month.

8. **Strategic Plan Action items**

    a. **Continued Feedback Process** No discussion,

    b. **TAOF Articles** Doug will write an article about the financial outlook and we'll start presenting the income/expense/projection summary (see item 1).

7:15 pm D. New Business

1. **Bylaws**
    a. Adding current Bylaws to website Not discussed.

b. Bylaws committee update We have 4 members, but will not meet until David is back; possibly early November. Mel to let Rev Lise know when the meetings are scheduled.

7:30 pm E. Staff, Committee & Team Reports

1. Minister's Report (monthly) – Rev. Lise submitted a written report.

2. Director of Religious Exploration (monthly) – Jenn submitted a written report.

3. Treasurer/Finance Committee Report (monthly) – Doug submitted a written report.

7:57 pm D. Executive Session

Board entered into Executive Session; no action taken.

8:05 pm E. Adjournment

Adjourned by Chair without objection.

Next Meeting:

Board Meeting: Wednesday, November 19, 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mel Langdon, Secretary