

## 2025-05-18 Spring Congregational Meeting

Call to Order - Meeting called to order by Jana, Board President, at 12:34 pm

Jana lit the Chalice

Megan did the Opening reading

Jack, acting Secretary, did the Roll Call. Requirement for quorum is 16; 20 are present, no one is on Zoom; quorum achieved

Confirm Quorum

Guidelines for taking part on Zoom on screen

Approval of Fall Congregational minutes - Meghan move, Jim 2nd, pass unanimously

Annual Reports -

Kitchen - Jana outlined the construction, etc.

Membership - Susie Norris reported a concerted effort to follow-up with visitors by postcard, email and/or a phone call & calling on former members

New Membership Packets have been created. There is an informal meeting every

Wednesday at Blackbird Cafe and some of the men in the church meet informally at the Opera House coffee house in Durant at times. Greeters have been doing a great job getting visitors to do the information cards and we're welcoming 2 new members: George & Eva

9 & 10. Treasurer Report (see report) there are changes to outlined budget - there has been an additional one time pledge of \$100 & we need to increase the Subscriptions line by \$200

Facilities are our largest cost - utilities, maintenance, etc.

Worship - 2 different costs - Mark and up to 9 lay speakers. Currently Marla is alone on this committee and needs help

We have cut Doug's "consulting fees" & Jack has taken a 50% pay cut as RE Director

Jack suggested we attempt to sell the art in the sanctuary

Meghan asked what subscriptions? The church app. How many people actually use it?

Approximately 150/annually. What social media do we use? FB and Jim discussed that he had had a conversation with Daniel Polk from First Church regarding this issue and they determined that Jim needs another person to help him with social media. Meghan volunteered to fill that position.

Doug moved to accept the Budget with adjustments as listed, Meghan 2nd & motion passed unanimously with no absentions

11. Election of Church Leadership -

Vice President

Secretary

Trustee-at-Large

Nominations Committee

Committee on Ministry

Amy moved to approve slate, Jack 2nd, motion carries with no "Nays" or absentions

12. Congregational Goals for fiscal year 2025-2026 -

Marilyn - we should remove "hire a minister" or "continue to work..." because they are a duplication

Jack - we should just drop the effort altogether and return the \$\$ because we've been so unsuccessful for so long

Marilyn - use other sources to look

Susie - I thought we were trying to recruit through colleges for new graduates?

Walter - have contacted SMU, trying to do an advertisement there

Bill - anything we can do to anticipate what kind of money is expected?

Jana - we're trying to maintain our savings as well as offer a competitive salary

Bill - do we have any experts to help us?

Jana - discuss getting experts at next Board meeting or at least get information

Carole - our income is mostly from pledges

Amy - how do we put raising money in our congregational goals?

Continue to work toward getting a minister and improve our online calendar

Susie - how do we put things on the calendar?

Jim - email the web team at [webteam@redriveruu.org](mailto:webteam@redriveruu.org)

Meghan - prioritizing increasing membership will increase everything else

Jack - need to be more specific with our goals and start planning more events on-site

Doug - move to make these changes: #2 - Expand visibility, #3 have more special events, #4 - increase membership. Bill 2nd

Liz - hiring a minister isn't a zero sum game & doesn't agree with deleting that

Marilyn reiterated - need to work toward hiring a minister & look at other sources

Doug accepts the amendments as suggested to add - continue to hire a minister; Bill, as second, agrees. Vote is called - Jack opposes, all others agree, motion carries.

13. Jim - Minister search - looking at UUA Portal, which lists those churches looking for a minister.

There are over 100 churches listed, 3 in TX. There are no listings of those ministers who are looking.

Every December this list is released to ministers but we don't get any applicants. Walter has been contacting SMU and Daniel Polk has let us know that the UUA is trying to streamline the path to becoming a UUA Minister.

Jack - have we looked at other denominations? Mark has been looking in Methodism & we've contacted TCU

Meghan - Jack has a valid question, we've struck out looking at only the UUA, we need to check with other churches.

Jim - email me with your ideas

14. Worship Team - Marla does all the work herself since she is the only one now actively on the Worship Team

Jim leads the Adult Forum and is looking at grants to get new equipment to do online streaming for this

Jack - what's the status of the "choir"? There is little participation & copyright issues with certain songs so we cannot put them on our YouTube channel.

Please fill out surveys for Marla (surveys passed)

Ideas - try a shorter service with 30 min of active discussion, discussions of past experiences or full services of discussions in small pockets or the group as a whole

16. Bruce has the closing reading - Robert Frost "The Pasture"

17. Extinguishing the Chalice - Jana

18. Adjournment - {time?} Meghan moves to close the meeting, Marilyn 2nd, unanimously passes