

Board Chair Report May 9, 2020

The following items have been completed by the Board Chair since the April 11, 2020 meeting:

Chaired the April 11 and April 25 Board Meetings via Zoom.

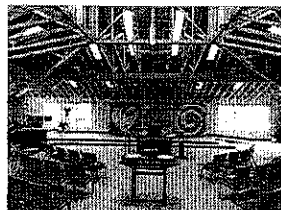
Reviewed April 11 and 25 board meeting minutes from Sue Borstein and contacted Linda Work to post in Beacon that the building would be temporarily closed until further notice. Also, sent message via List Serve and asked Laura Solomon to update the website.

Scheduled Zoom meeting for Finance Committee Meeting, April 22, 2020 and attended the meeting.

Spoke with Linda Work about pledge total (\$160,212 as of 4/28/20) and asked for list of all pledges in spread sheet. Made follow-up calls to those yet to pledge.

Attended May 2 organizational restructuring meeting via Zoom. Volunteered to be part of larger group for this initiative.

Created notice for upcoming annual meeting with slate of nominees and agenda and sent to Linda Work to email and mail out. Also, sent notice of upcoming meeting via List Serve.



**East Shore Unitarian Universalist Church
Kirtland, Ohio
Minister's Report to the Board of Trustees
May 10, 2020**

Dear Members of the Board,

It's eight weeks now since we started staying at home and sheltering in place. Eight weeks of producing worship online and meeting via Zoom. Eight weeks of witnessing everyone we know move from shock, through anxiety and fear, and settle into boredom and skin hunger. Eight weeks of having to relearn how to do everything in new ways, from grocery shopping to greeting loved ones.

Here are some of the things I worked on in April, and some thoughts.

Online Services

4/1 First Wednesday Night "Haiku as Spiritual Practice"

4/5 "Solitude and Isolation," with Rev. Emily DeTar and Maggie Calkins

4/10 "Tenebrae Candlelight Service," with Rev. Joe Cherry and Halcyon Domanski, a joint service with the UU Congregation of Cleveland

4/12 "Easter," with Jared Hammond, Rev. Sally White, and Jessie Jones

4/26 Earth Day "Fragility and Resilience," with Ron Prosek and Maggie Calkins

Online worship is working as well as it can, under the circumstances. Most churches settled immediately on one way of presenting services, and have stuck with it as best as they can. A surprising number are following our lead though, and adding a Facebook Live portion at the beginning. A few are even abandoning Zoom meetings until after worship is done, making me glad we happened to choose a viable method from the start. Most of the worship elements live on video on YouTube. We have learned that inserting videos from other YouTube publishers into a playlist causes us to lose people, so we are minimizing that as much as possible.

Halcyon continues to serve as tech guru, and has enlisted the help of Lynne Killgore and Laura Solomon to do the editing and compiling. Laura has already done it twice, and I took a couple of days to learn the basics of iMovie. I've been able to edit my own worship elements and those of some of the worship associates in order to eliminate a lot of work around communicating abstract ideas to the poor souls who have to figure out what I imagine. I continue to compile the video slideshow with music every week.

As it becomes more clear that we will not be able to gather as a congregation into the summer, I've begun speaking with ministers of other congregations about how to produce services together, with elements shared between congregations during the month of July when we are all on vacation. We'll need the vacation, even if the time is

spent sunbathing in our backyards, but we also don't want to stick our worship teams with the Herculean task of figuring all of this out while they do their jobs.

I want to thank all of the folks who have been submitting videos of reflections, stories, music, artwork and photographs for our services, especially Ron and Judy, Nancy and Ken, Jared, Jessie, Maggie, Laura Solomon and Laura Silverman, all of whom have put so much care into creating worship that gets better and more engaging with each week that passes.

Prayer Circle

The Prayer Circle continues to gather on Facebook Live every Wednesday morning, archived onto the East Shore page as a recording to be viewed later. Live attendance has dropped (it is so early!) but viewership holds steady at about 75+ views per week.

Beverages and Banter

Everyone who is interested in using the technology seems to be adapting well to using Zoom for informal conversation. People who were at first leery of it have emerged as go-to experts. Conversation is starting to run out. What is there to talk about when all you do is stay home, and everyone is seeing the same news all about one topic? My attempts to start conversations with readings and questions have been met largely with resistance. Maybe that will change in the coming weeks.

Furlough and Study Weeks

My last furlough week was 4/13 to 4/20, when I put in about 20 hours of work. The line between work life and home life is completely obliterated at this point. My hope is to take a few days next week, during May's furlough week to visit my parents, whom I have not seen since last August. That's if they are open to the company. They've been very vigilant about staying home.

Organizational Restructuring

I'm happy to report that there have been several meetings in the last few weeks to continue the work of imagining an organizational structure that better meets East Shore's current needs and resources, with the goals of streamlining processes and creating more transparency and better communication. Dick Hurwitz, Patrick McGovern, Lynne Killgore, and Eric Waldman have emerged as the leaders of the core Group, taking responsibility for creating documents and diagrams to "vetted" by another 15 or so individuals who have committed to the process. No date has been set yet for the next all-church meeting on the subject. Zoom just feels daunting for this kind of conversation.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Denis Letourneau Paul

Membership Committee Report

May 8, 2020

- ✦ We have received resignations of membership from Karen Dribben, Justin Simons, Bonnie Pearce, Emily Murphy and Dave and Sue Hytree. After Board action is taken accepting/acknowledging their resignations, our membership number will be 149.
- ✦ New to UU classes continue to be suspended. We still have not found a need to find a way to do them online but could probably do something via Zoom if the need is expressed.
- ✦ The annual Pancake Breakfast is scheduled for Sunday, June 28, 2020. If postponement is necessary, we continue to think that having the breakfast as soon as we can after being able to reopen the church would be a vital thing to help us all “get back” as a community.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick McGovern, Membership Committee Chair