

Board President's Report July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022

What a difference a year makes!

The past year has seen so many changes—Rev. Heather's arrival and installation, resumption of in-person Sunday services (with or without masks) and shared post-service social time (indoors or out), growth in our membership and within our children's faith exploration program, dedication of a wonderful sculpture, enhanced sanctuary lighting (all the better to livestream by!), re-energized expansion planning, and so much more. Whew!

It's also seen the continuation of key components of UUSD's success: Committees remained strong, finding all sorts of new ways to do their work when that was necessary or desirable. Fiscal year 2023's pledge campaign succeeded well beyond expectations, with pledges exceeding the target by about four percent. UUSD's leadership remained strong and focused, working both to sustain operations during difficult times and plan for the time when the "next normal" took hold. The collective spirit of cooperation and resolve was palpable.

Throughout the year, the Board met twice monthly (with just a few exceptions), devoting the first meeting each month to planning, and the second to business. During our planning meetings, we (e.g.) discussed Dan Hotchkiss's book, *Governance and Ministry*, which Rev. Heather invited us to read. We found in its pages some helpful hints to finding and traversing pathways to change. Over two or three other planning meetings, we explored the 8th Principle parameters identified for Board/Governance consideration.

Our business meetings were given over to "typical" Board activities: establishing teams, approving committee charges and chairs, reviewing financial reports and major budget requests, deliberating over personnel-related matters, considering contracting/consulting options and, insofar as possible, staying out of "the weeds." The Board has been working toward becoming a "strategic" (v. operational) entity for some years. We've made progress, though there's more yet to be made.

The Board conducted all of its meetings via Zoom, finding the platform enabled people to participate despite any reservations about meeting in person or driving in darkness or inclement weather. When it became possible to meet once again in person, we elected to remain on Zoom. It was one thing we could do to make Board meetings readily accessible to almost everyone—Board members and visitors alike.

Summaries of the Board's work this past year can be found in the columns prepared for each monthly Beacon at the Beach. If you'd like details, just take a look at the Board documents and minutes on the website—it's all there! Know that we worked hard to do what we believe to be the main business of the Board: to preserve and responsibly expend this congregation's resources.

Our pledge campaign theme this year was “Great Things Ahead!” It so nicely conveys, in just three words, the future that is UUSD’s to claim. The Board looks forward to playing its role in defining and evolving that future. Great things do, indeed, lie ahead for UUSD.

Respectfully submitted,

Marj Shannon, Outgoing President
UUSD Board of Trustees