**Minutes of April 2, 2025 Meeting of the Worship & Music Committee**

**5:00 p.m. in the Parlor**

**In Attendance:** Adeline Bailey, Nancy Luthy, Suzyn Mills, Martha McGovern

**Theme Questions for 2025-2026: Who are we as a congregation? What are our needs? How can we help each other cope with transitions and changing circumstances?**

**Suggested expansion --**

**“We grow souls when we engage with one another in congregational self-governance, learning through conflict and feeling the power of a shared vision come into reality.**

**The purpose of church is to provide spiritual sustenance for world engagement. Now more than ever, the world needs our congregations to be incubators of a generous, loving, and justice-seeking spirituality.” Rev. Dr. Robert M. Hardies**

Chalice Lighting: Not My Train

The choreographer Eleo Pomare once explained why he doesn’t race to get through the turnstile if he hears the subway approaching the station: “If I miss it, it wasn’t my train.” Imagine what it would be like to live with that kind of trust. The school, the job, the partner that I thought I wanted but didn’t get – it wasn’t mine to have. I have a different curriculum, a different journey. While I’m staring longingly at the receding taillights of someone else’s train, my own life is revealing itself, unfolding right now, in front of me, in plain sight . . . breathtaking. analevylyons.com

1. Minutes for March 5, 2025 meeting were approved.
2. Financial Matters:

The committee approved the payment of $200 to Community Refugee and Immigration Services in the name of David Torbett, at his request in lieu of payment for his reflection in the worship service of April 6.

The committee approved payment of $50 to Hal Jeffrey as a guest musician on March 23 and also payment of $50 to Josie Jeffery for her earlier performance.

The committee pre-approved payment for the keyboard music holder. [Darryl Ting has also constructed one for the keyboard in the Sanctuary.]

The committee approved payment of $200 to Deborah Singer Pires for the May 11, 2025 worship service – planning and Zoom delivery of the reflection and other elements.

Payment of $262 has been made to cover the cost of the keyboard repair.

Pete Mather has been paid #150 for his reflection on March 23.

Payment of $150 was not made to Elizabeth West of Morgantown because she was ill on February 16 and not able to fulfill the agreement.

Rate of pay for Guest in Your Pulpit Reflection: The committee established the basic pay as $200.

In a related matter, the committee agreed to cancel J.D. Stillwater for the June 8 service and to look into sharing costs for his appearance ($400) with Athens and perhaps other congregations for a date in the future.

Projected budgetary needs to cover expenses for January to June of 2025 in Rev. Kat’s absence.

We figured that our costs would come in under the available amount of $2900. **Nancy Luthy submitted a ballpark request of $2820.00 to The Board.**

6 times guest ordained ministers **$330** **x 6 = $1980 (revised 1/26)**

UUA videoed sermons $ 300

Outside speakers/musicians $50-$150 x 6 = $ 900

**TOTAL $3180**

Beth Casebolt has been very helpful in suggesting options as we move forward.

* She is willing to do one or two services during those months. She teamed with Nancy Luthy for the service on February 2.
* UUA has sermon video series. Each sermon comes with reading and hymn suggestions. It is possible to try them out before subscribing. A subscription for one per month for “this year” (?2025?) is $300. **We decided that this expense might be worth the money. No preview or purchase has been done yet.**
* Sermons for the previous two years are free on the UUA website. [Go to UUA.org/sermonseries Free ones are under the archive menu on the left.]
* CER has a guest-in-your-pulpit listing of folks willing to do services. Many will do remote. Print the pages for those you like because the program is sunsetting in December. <https://www.uua.org/central:east/resources/guest-your-pulpit>

**Dawn has printed relevant ones and put them in a reference notebook.**

* Partner with or visit-remotely other congregations.
* Consider small group ministry or a discussion bowl once a month.

**We envisioned a basic mix of services each month: lay-led service, virtual speaker, guest in-person speaker, small group discussion/workshop, actual or virtual fieldtrip.**

1. Correspondence: The committee gave a rousing THANK YOU to Nancy Luthy for serving as both a full-time the Board Liaison and a full-time W & M Committee member. She has designed and orchestrated several outstanding services in this transition period. She takes the cake!!!
2. Assessment on progress with methods of increasing involvement:

* Martha will continue in efforts to recruit and line up Worship Associates in time for The Confluence.
* Time for All Ages – Time for All Ages is included in services routinely again.

We can have a regular spot in The Confluence to suggest books and to request recommendations.

* Search for Truth Library – Stephanie Rector has completed the database for all the books for young people.

We have books relevant to themes or particular services available for loan. Dawn has stamped the books as property of FUUSM and created a sign-up/return form in paper form. The electronic form will be developed later*.* Abook display and check-out station has been established in Social Hall. We can increase coordination with childcare staff. Worship planners/leaders have started to alert Lela Erb of the book/topic to be featured in Time for All Ages at least a week ahead of time, providing staff with a copy of materials and ideas for follow-up when possible.

1. The Annual Report 2024-2025 in both table and statement form was approved. The table form will be provided to Board members and filed with official documents. The statement form will be provided via email to Board members and all on fuusm-l.
2. Concretia Update: Nancy Luthy noted that the blocks of stone that served as the base for Concretia still need to be moved out of the gathering area and seated firmly in another area. She will contact Roger about following through on that action.
3. Reflection on Recent Worship Service/Event:

What went well :

What to improve, change:

1. Emergency Statement for WL or WA – consult with Ron Rees of the Safety Committee. Nancy Luthy will continue to share ideas with the Board. For now, we can incorporate the statement below into the Welcome statement. **Martha** will revise the examples available in the Sanctuary entrance desk.

Statement used at Chautauqua: If the fire alarm sounds, please exit in an orderly way through the designated exits. If there is another emergency, please remain seated or shelter in place, and specific directions will be provided.

Ron Rees is looking into a grant from Homeland Security. We can check the UUA Community Resilience Site.

1. Days off and Concerts – Randall Kidder

**Emphases:** Outreach to Community, Social Justice, 3rd Sunday – Green Sanctuary

**2025**

**MARCH TRUST The People’s State of the Union ???**

**2 WL ??** The Future of Religion by Ted Goertzel

Finance/Pledge Drive spot – George Banziger

*5 – Ash Wednesday*

**9 Daylight Savings Time Begins**

**WL -** Suzyn Mills Virtual - UU Church of Brooklyn – Jazz service

13 - Purim

**16 WL – The Board of Trustees** Exploring or Lost? We control our fate.

*17 – St. Patrick’s Day*

**23 WL –** MMcGPete Mather – Appreciative Inquiry “Strengthening Community

During Leadership Transition”

CHOIR: “On the Faces of the World”

**30 WL – The Board of Trustees** Charting the Path Forward – small groups

*March 30 - Eid al Fitr, begins at sundown*

**APRIL JOY**

**6** David Torbett – “They May Not Come for You” WL: MMcG

*12 – Passover begins at sundown*

**13** *Palm Sunday* Darryl Ting – “Today: How can we live this day so that we have

something to be proud of at the end of our days?” WL: MMcG

*18 – Good Friday*

**20 Easter**  **WL – Green Sanctuary** Science & Reverence “Easter & Earth Day: All in

One Egg”

**CHOIR: “Jazz Kyrie”**

*22 – Earth Day*

*24 – Holocaust Remembrance Day*

**27 WL – Board of Trustees ANNUAL MEETING**

**MAY IMAGINATION**

*1 – May Day*

**4** WL: MMcGJann Adams – “Lafayette: Man of Character” (May 23

Reenactment)

**11** *Mothers/Parents Day*  WL – Suzyn Mills Deborah Pires – “Honoring Those Who

Nurture”

**CHOIR: “These Are the Things That Count”**

**18** Folk Song Sing with Athens – in Athens Service, potluck, songfest 11-2:30

**25** WL: Nancy Luthy Stephen DiLorenzo – “War, Peace, Moral Injury”

*26 – Memorial Day*

**JUNE FREEDOM**

**1** WL: MMcG Jay Warmke - Looming Energy Crisis

*6 – Eid al Adha, begins at sundown*

**8** WL: Suzyn Mills “Theology According to Hobbes (and Calvin)”

**15** *Fathers Day* WL: Shari Ballantyne, Chris Hoke, Nancy Lee Flower Ceremony

FUUSM Group Picture

*19 - Juneteenth*

**22 MOV Multicultural Festival – Belpre Civitan Park**

**29** Coordinators: M & A BaileySegments of UUA General Assembly service

**JULY** Disability Pride Month

*4 – July 4th*

**6**  PBS video “The Statue of Liberty” picnic BRUNCHCoordinators \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**13**

**20**

**27**

**AUGUST**

**3**

**10** WL: MMcG Nicole Livengood – “Haiku as Meditation”

**17**

**24**

**31**

Martha at Chautauqua: July 12-20 and August 16-24

**BRAINSTORMING:**

Future Services:

* **MUSIC:** LeeAnn Gallucci, Sophie Stevens, Laura
  + Katie’s children – Hal and Josie willing, dates to be determined
* **REFLECTIONS:** 
  + Hilary Krivchenia on 5 Habits -- Healing the Heart of Democracy – She is willing but uncertain about committing dates
  + Climate Justice Revival sermons – Adeline has provided a link to recorded sermons
    - Rev. Arif Mamdani, “Models of God”/ Panentheism - MMcG
  + UUA – one Sunday per month, circuit minister
  + **Aurora Davis –** her story – Yes, prefers informal small group setting *“My Journey”* 740-760-4380
  + \*Service or part by Pledge Drive Task Force – Martha will share passage on Belonging – Need to contact George Banziger
  + Jeff Schenkel – local artist and politician – Jane is making contact
  + Aurora Davis – her story, Eric Fromm
  + Caitlin Harrison – growing up UU
  + Rene Reed of the Alzheimer’s Asso of Southeastern Ohio 951-310-1696
  + LeeAnn Gallucci – Creativity
  + YouTube video – Embrace Aging (recommended by J. Adams)
* **UUA Shared Read:** *Authentic Selves*
* **Movie –** TheHeart Revolution
* the power of story – the People’s State of the Union
* All Tuttle has recommended interview with Azim Shariff (July 16, 2018) Creating God – Hidden Brain Media [email 1/26/25]
* sources of information – Tangle.com, Heather Cox Richardson – Letters from an American
* \*\*\*address questions submitted in August “Quest for Meaning” service
* Chase Campbell – now WTAP reporter
* Wood County Society – Brandon Gress, Executive Director
* *\*Richard Thieret – possible contributions: History of Life (the origins of life in you), Carbon & Consumerism, Spiritual Narcissism, Spiritual Beliefs about the Soul, Piety and Plagues. Also a bioethics play and a Unitarian jeopardy game.*
* UU minister who offers a wide variety of virtual reflections (e.g., leadership development) Mark Bernstein [m.mjbernstein@verizon.net](mailto:m.mjbernstein@verizon.net)
* \*Exploration of “Do we really want to grow? Why? If so, How?” as follow-up to open letter “Why We Aren’t Growing”
* Voices from the congregation on how thankfulness is/was woven into their lives. E.g., grace before meals, ritual at Thanksgiving gathering, nighttime meditation/prayer
* Quaker group
* Ginnie McNeil – FACT (FAith Congregations Together)
* Tom Rooney – Sustainable Forestry Director for the Nature Conservancy
* Steve Peck
* Mike Tager OR Mitchell Krumm – Marietta College, Political Science – guest speakers
* Include more on Ways to Meditate
* Continue to make contacts with other faiths, cultures
* Need to talk with other groups (Building & Grounds, BRIDGES) about taking part in or taking responsibility for worship service?
* Establishing Chalice Circles, perhaps interest-based
* Create a book of Graces, resources – for this Thanksgiving and keep adding e.g., Darryl Ting’s Community Meal grace, *Earth Prayers, Life Prayers*
* Willa O’Neill – political journey?