



Board Meeting – Aug.17, 2022

Our mission: To be a compassionate, welcoming community that nurtures spiritual growth and practices justice.

Meeting Minutes

Board: Kim Reid, President; Paul Trewartha-Weiner, Vice President; Kimberly E., Secretary, John Helmers, Treasurer; Brianna Berg, Molly Dingel, Jodi Edmonson, John Tacinelli & Walt Rothwell, Members at Large, Reb. Luke Stevens-Royer, ex officio

Absent:

1. **Call to order.** The meeting was called to order by Kim Reid.
2. **Chalice Lighting & Reflection.** Kim Reid shared her reflections of the Pilgrimage to Boston and the surrounding areas.
3. **Motion to approve agenda and previous meeting minutes.** Approval of the agenda moved by Walt, seconded by John H. Motion carried. Approval of the minutes moved by Molly, seconded by Walt. Motion carried.
4. **Financial reports.** John Helmers provided financial reports electronically in advance of the meeting. The July financial were amended based on the decision of the board at the July 2022 meeting. John also presented highlights to the June and July reports
5. **Minister's report.**
Some months, while programmatic planning is already underway for a lively fall, I prefer to take a wider view about the *why* of our work. And this piece of writing caught my attention recently, so I want to share them with you to reflect together in our shared leadership.

These words are from an online blog, *Peace Bang*, from the Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein, a UU Minister in New England, known for attending to cultural and spiritual trends with honesty and insight. Here is what she wrote just this summer, that I am wrestling with – and I wonder if you might be, too.

“The mainline Protestant church (and in this I include UUs, who are theologically diverse but culturally extremely similar to mainline Protestants) has often failed in its commission to be counter-cultural. The church is now regarded by most people as a product that exists to meet their needs, or perhaps a fondly regarded public utility.

Church leaders and clergy are desperate to reconvene covid-diminished congregations and/or to find new paths toward relevance and vitality. What no one wants to openly admit is that churches are spiritual communities, not service providers. Nor, unless this is an explicit aspect of their mission, are churches community program centers.” (Peacebang, July, 2022)

I lift this up, as part of a larger writing that was about clergy burnout, *though, to be clear, I feel strongly supported by this church and your leadership to care for soulful well-being and my family life – thank you* - I lift this up at the same time I'm thinking about fall planning, wanting to be fully multi-platform similar to other public institutions, yet knowing we do not have a tech department and sufficient support staff to offer what is programmatically normative. I balance my own desire to create a modern church attending to the forms and modes that are culturally normative, alongside a deep resentment for over-productive and consumeristic cultures of capitalism and white supremacy that encourages us to create and provide more than we're able to sustain.

And here I am, stuck in the middle, as the song goes, with you – grateful for the challenge to hold these tensions together within the framing of our mission – welcome, compassion, spirituality, justice. There is much we can, and should do through those values, and we will. And I believe we can do it in such a way that leans more toward generative and inspiring work, and purposely leans away from over-exhaustion, over-work, and the idols of productivity. May our shared work be generative, life-giving, and sustained by offering each other grace and encouragement.

In faith,
Luke

6. **Update on the RE Wing repairs from tree damage.** We had an insurance adjuster come out on 8/17 but have not yet provided their assessment. There are still a lot of holes in the roof. They have been patched but the whole roof needs to be replaced and that won't be able to happen until the Spring. There is a process that staff have developed for identifying holes that have not yet been discovered. The RE Wing continues to be closed until we are sure we have identified all leaks. Once the leaks are all repaired, then the carpet can be cleaned and sanitized. Erica has done an extraordinary job of asking the appropriate questions and attending to the related issues. We hope to have a better financial picture in September.

Old business

7. **Finalize and approve 2022-23 Board Goals** Approval of board goals moved by John T., seconded by Walt. Motion carried.

- 8. Shared Ministry Team Updates:** The slate of Shared Ministry Teams was presented:

Administration

Members: Eric Egger, Barb Foss
Board Liaison: Walt Rothwell, Kim Edson
Staff: Erika Fetterman, Nick Woolums

Congregational Life

Members: Robin Taylor, Lisa Talcott
Board Liaison: Jodi Edmonson
Staff: Melissa Egger

Faith Development

Members: Jessica Hoffman, Stephanie Evans Hanson
Board Liaison: John Tacinelli, Kim Reid
Staff: Amy Nelson (Derik Robertson, Chantelle Feddersen)

Financial Stewardship

Members: Dave Edmonson, Katherine Logan, Beth Schmidt
Board Liaison: John Helmers
Staff: Connie Schuelka

Social Justice

Members: Gail Bishop, Sara Felts
Board Liaison: Brianna Berg, Molly Dingel
Staff: Luke Stevens-Royer

Worship & Music

Members: Beth Atkinson, Trish Braga
Board Liaison: Paul Trewartha Weiner
Staff: Luke Stevens-Royer (Austin Ferguson, Joe Mish)

Approval of the slate moved by Walt, seconded by John T. Motion carried

The shared Ministry Retreat will be on 9/25 1:00 – 4:00 PM

- 9. Social Justice Team** – Asylum support group. Molly updated the board that a lawyer was hired by the congregation to assist a family in their petition for Asylum. There is a period of time they are not allowed to work while awaiting a

decision on their Asylum petition so funds will be needed to cover their living expenses during this time.

10. Realm access check-in The board reviewed their access to Realm.

11. “Transforming Hearts” training possibility tabled until next meeting

New business

12. Building Use Fees Policy Changes The amended the building use fees. changes were moved by Molly, seconded by Paul. Motion carried.

13. Wednesday Meals, Forums, and Board times. The team is getting ready to resume Wednesday activities in September.

Meeting adjourned.

Building our Future Team provided a Presentation to the Board.

The board discussed the timeline for the 2022-2023 Building our Future Activities.

The board will work on a multi-model information and education plan to update the congregation on the findings of the Building our Future team in the Fall of 2022. This would be to prepare the congregation for a first vote as to next steps in January 2023. John H. moved and Molly seconded, motion carried.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, Sept. 21 7:00

Reflection theme: Belonging - Brianna

Respectfully submitted, Kimberly Edson, Secretary