



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

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – April 19, 2023 7:00 PM

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

Absent: Paul Trewartha-Weiner, Brianna Berg late

1. **Call to order** Kim R called the meeting to order.
2. **Chalice Lighting & Reflection** Walt shared a reflection on resistance.
3. **Motion to approve agenda and previous meeting minutes**
 - a. Motion to approve the agenda moved by Walt and seconded by John T. Motion carried.
 - b. March 22 Minutes – approval moved by Walt seconded by John H. Motion carried
 - c. April 11 Minutes -- approval of amended minutes moved by John H. seconded by Jodi. Motion carried.
 - d. April 17 Minutes -- approval of amended minutes moved by Jodi, seconded by John H. Motion carried.
4. **Financial reports** John H. shared comments on the financial reports that were shared by Connie. There was discussion about the oil stocks and how they do not align with our church values. The finance committee is following the current policy that was established related to stock gifts. The board encourages the finance committee to consider developing an investment policy in the future that better aligns with our values.
5. **Minister's report:**

*Amidst the email and emotions, the pressure of time,
can we leave space for wonder, and our deepest values, centered on love.*

These words of Li Kynvi which we have used recently are a good reminder to leaders during a time of intense institutional decision-making. Even as we, rightly, attend to the many logistics and details of our building, governance, and budgetary obligations, I try to remind myself of the *purpose*. All these things help hold together our mission, which creates a space in the world where people's lives are nourished, encouraged, and reminded they are sacred.

In that framing, here are a few updates:

- Our music search completed, as you know, by selecting Rose Mish as our incoming Co-Director of Music. Rose will bring a collaborative style of music, including developing more multi-generational participation in music in the church. The search team (Beth Atkinson, Charyssa Cobb, and Alex Higano) are very excited for this new direction for engaging and nourishing music that attends to the life of a modern church.

- On Sunday, April 30, I will host a forum on Article 2, our national association's work on potential revisions to our principles. If you haven't engaged with the study guide or accompanied work, I encourage you to – comments can be submitted online through the end of April, and while there are many opinions about the draft (which would be finalized at the earliest a year from this summer), it is a chance to have some deep conversations about what is at the center of our diverse and ever-evolving faith tradition.
- Amy Nelson, Melissa Egglar and I have been brainstorming ways to deepen and clarify our small group ministries, in an effort to broaden the types of spiritual engagement offered, and have some consistency of expectations of group practices.
- In addition, we are thinking about ways to connect what children are doing in faith development with both their families/parents (through take-home questions, etc.) as well as the wider congregation. This is a way to build on our *Soul Matters* resources, as well as think about Unitarian Universalist identity-building for all ages.
- Finally, to continue to make sure we have the space and time we need as a community in our discernment process, I have been in touch with Rev. Ruth (sabbatical Minister) and will keep in touch with Rachel Maxwell and the Board, about possible adjustments to timing for my sabbatical. Please know that I will still take sabbatical during the winter *or* spring/early summer next year, but keeping the timing flexible right now feels important.

All of this is about the larger purpose of what we do: supporting our mission of welcome, inclusion, spirituality and justice. In remembering the core of this church, all the details for how it's held together feel both deeper, and easier, in service of our larger mission.

In faith,
Luke

Old business

6. Discussion of Draft Budget and Pledge Drive Update (Luke, John H)

A draft of the budget was shared with the board. A discussion was led by Luke and John H. and they answered questions.

82% of the aspirational budget has been received from this year's pledge drive. Connie projects reaching 95% of the aspirational budget based on the current pledge trends.

John and Luke will incorporate possible changes that were discussed and work with Connie on a final budget.

7. ★ Approval of Bylaws Revisions

There was much discussion about the proposed bylaws. The board section will remain in the by-laws and removed from the policies.

There were some areas such as adding a statement of purpose and including membership in the UUA, and how membership is defined. It was discussed that we include those deeper conversations over the next year.

Suggested changes to article III, Membership, were rejected for this year.

Suggested changes to article VI, Congregational Resolutions, were embraced with some minor grammatical suggested changes.

Suggested changes to Section 7.3 of article VII, responsibilities of the board. Changes to the bylaws were supported. It was recognized there was overlap between the Bylaw and

the policy draft. A goal of the board for next year is to take a deeper look at the Board policies but focus on the bylaws for this year.

Suggested changes to Article VIII – moving committees from the bylaws to policy. The nominating committee is the only one to be retained in the bylaws at this time. There may need to be some additional updates to the Nominating Committee policy document, to revise the policy, it needs to go to the congregation for a vote.

There was as discussion about removing the endowment fund and that there is a corresponding policy that stipulates when an endowment committee is to be established.

Motion to move the bylaws forward, as amended above, to the bylaws committee made by Molly, seconded by John H. Motion carried.

8. Discussion of Policy Revisions (Kim R)

a. Board Roles Policy tabled until next year

b. Financial Stewardship Team Policy

Suggested changes reviewed and discussed. Motion to approve as amended moved by John T. seconded by Walt. Motion carried.

c. Endowment Fund Policy

Suggested changes revised and discussed. This will be brought back to the board after more investigation.

9. Building Our Future Team Update John provided a brief update on creating a video of the Viola Road property. The team is still actively working on getting additional information on the property. The terms of the purchase agreement require they remain confidential.

10. Roof Update Merit will work on the roof in August or as time and conditions are available.

New Business

none

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: May 17, 2023 7 PM

Reflection theme: Creativity/John H.

May Meeting:

- Approve Final Budget based on pledge drive totals
- Approve Financial Stewardship Team, Endowment Fund and Board Duties policies
- Review progress on Board 2022-23 Board goals and make recommendations for 23-24.
- Plan for June 4 Annual Meeting