



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

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – May 17, 2023

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

1. Call to order: Kim R. called the meeting to order.
2. Chalice Lighting & Reflection: John H. shared a reflection on creativity.
3. Check in: “On Our Hearts”
4. ☐ Approve agenda and previous meeting minutes.
 - a. Motion to approve the April 19 minutes made by John H, seconded by Walt. Motion carried.
 - b. Motion to approve the April 27 minutes made by Molly, seconded by Jodi. Motion carried.
5. Financial reports: The Financial report notes from Connie were reviewed. John H. answered related questions.
6. Minister’s report:
*We shall be known by the company we keep,
by the one’s who circle ‘round to tend this fire.
We shall be known by the ones who sow and reap
the seeds of change alive from deep within the earth –
it is time, now, that we thrive – that we lead ourselves into the well;
in this great turning we shall learn to lead in love.*

This is a great turning in the life of our church. I have learned much in this process already: about our collective dreams and hopes, about our willingness to lean toward possibility and hope, and to move with intention and church-defying swiftness when the spirit calls us to do so.

I recently read a story in our written histories. In Grace Church (at 2nd and 2nd), a chandelier broken and the lamps ignited a small fire. People were in the church at the time, so, the “women of the church” formed a bucket brigade and kept the church safe and damage minimal.

I think that’s what we’re doing as leaders most of the time in times of major transition. We are circling ‘round, going on with regular congregational life, and from time to time something shifts and falls in a way that is unexpected, and we do what needs to be done to ensure the church’s well-being, each doing our part to collectively, sometimes to minimize damage – but more broadly, to care for each other.

This summer is a “both/and” summer. It will be an exciting and engaging time with architects and imagining, ever more clearly, our future. It is exciting to imagine how to tend to the area of land that is now entrusted to our care, and to imagine how we live in relationship with the land, our partners, and community in creating a space that is open and inclusive and sustainable in all the ways we can. There is a whole host of opportunities to do that this summer. *And*, it is critical for leaders to rest. I’m reminding myself that each day, and I hope you are too. Depletion is not in the best interest of anyone. In that spirit, I will be gladly off-grid in campgrounds and on family trips throughout the summer, as well as nourishing my spirit and mind at General Assembly in Pittsburg in June, spending all week with our kids for Chalice Camp in July, and sojourning with our youth on pilgrimage to New England in August.

I hope you are finding ways, too, to care for your soul, finding the “both/and” of balance. The river is moving, there have been some rapids – but trust that the water, and the raft we have for each other, will hold us steady.

In faith,
Luke

Old business

7. Pledge Drive Update and □ Approve Annual Budget. The budget was reviewed. There were some changes noted from the previous budget draft. Some budget changes were made to stay within the revised budget based on 2023 pledges. Motion to approve the budget including the approval of \$35,000 for ministerial housing and \$69,800 salary allotments for ministerial compensation made by Molly, seconded by Paul. Motion carried.
8. □ Approval of Endowment Fund Policy. The financial stewardship committee reviewed the policy and made some suggested changes. Those changes were reviewed, and some additional changes were made for clarity. Motion to approve the revised endowment fund policy made by John T, seconded by Molly. Motion carried.
9. Building Our Future Team Update (Kim R, John H. Walt)
 - a. □ Approval of Building Our Future Project Leadership Team. We have the deed, and the property has been purchased. The location team is now transitioning their work to what is needed to develop the property. The team is working to contract with surveyors as well as working with the architects.
 - b. In order to list our current property, we must address the easements on the property. John H. and Kim R. suggested hiring Dunlap and Seeger to resolve the easement issues. Motion to hire Dunlap and Seeger moved by John H. seconded by Walt. Motion carried.
 - c. The city is requesting an updated development agreement for the Viola Road property.
 - d. Work with Locus has started. There are listening sessions scheduled to engage with the congregation and to direct the development of the new church design. The schedule of the listening session has been shared with the congregation in the e-news.

- e. Building Our Future: Beyond our Ourselves has created a Project Leadership team to move the building project forward. Team structure and team leadership was shared with the board. Molly moved approval of the project leadership team structure and core team leaders, seconded by Paul. Motion carried.
10. Bylaws amendment proposal. Kim presented additional changes to the bylaws regarding authorizations of the president and treasurer. Molly moved the bylaws as amended. Paul seconded. Motion carried.
11. Shared Ministry Team Updates: for the full reports go to: <https://uurochmn.org/shared-ministry-team-meetings/>
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- a. Administration (Walt and Kim E.) Nothing new.
 - b. Congregational Life (Jodi) Membership keeps increasing and there are a robust number of fellowship activities. Robin will no longer be the Fellowship chair. Hospitality circle leaders are planning a potluck to discuss their work.
 - c. Faith Development (John T. and Kim R.) Chalice camp is coming up.
 - d. Financial Stewardship (John H.) Covered in the budget discussion.
 - e. Social Justice (Molly and Brianna) There were conversations about the new Social Justice Coordinator position.
 - f. Worship and Music (Paul): The summer theme is “Delight”. There is discussion of the transitions from Austin to Rose as the music directors.

New Business

- 12. Review annual Board goals/any suggestions for next year’s Board goals. Kim shared the goals for the board this year and we reviewed our progress.
- 13. Annual Meeting, June 4 at 11:15 AM (1 service at 10:00 that morning). Bring a flower, bring a snack.
- 14. Design Meeting with Locus Architecture for BOFBO and Board on June 11th (11:30 – 1:30)
- 15. Incoming/Outgoing Board Members – a gift was presented to Molly and Walt for their service to the board. The nominating committee is presenting Rod Milbrandt and Alita Borrud for the board of directors to be voted on at the annual meeting.
- 16. July Board Annual Goal-Setting meeting – July 19th 5:00 PM

Adjournment