

**Unitarian Universalist Society
Board of Trustees**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – July 12, 2018

Board meeting minutes are made available on the website or can be requested from the UUS administrator.

Present: Jane DeWitt (President), Jim Laughlin (Past-President), Amy Fretz (Vice-President), Peg Voelker (Secretary), Sara Feldmann (Trustee), Paul Pomrehn (Trustee), Colleen Higgins (Trustee), Peggy Garrigues (DCL), and Jessica Zimmer-Saltzman (DLRE)

Absent: Chris Rode (Treasurer), Michael Honey-Arcement (Trustee), and Rev. Steven Protzman (Ex officio)

Guests: Sharon Booker – representing the Committee on Congregational Life and Ministry (CCLAM), Kelly O’Berry, Kirk Witzberger, and Joel Gilbertson-White

Board President DeWitt called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. Rode is at the Unitarian Universalist Association’s MidWest Leadership School serving as staff. Protzman is away on leave. DeWitt provided opening words followed by the Chalice lighting and a brief check-in by Board members. Garrigues provided technical support by using her computer to show the agenda and other documents on the room’s large screen.

Board Covenant: DeWitt called attention to the fact that, at times, working as a member of the Board can be stressful and involve tense situations. During those times it is particularly important that we honor our covenant with each other and practice right relations. DeWitt shared the UUS Board Covenant, and members of the Board read it aloud. She also encouraged everyone to reread the UUS Right Relations Agreement. DeWitt commented that members of the congregation will likely experience some stress or anxiety during this interim period - a time of transition and change. She added that as we spend time together reflecting on our past and planning our future it may be helpful to call attention to our covenant of Right Relations.

Consent Agenda: Consent agenda and other items are uploaded to Dropbox for Board review prior to the meeting.

*Consent Agenda items: Board Agenda; June Board Meeting Highlights and Minutes; Monthly Staff Reports (DLRE, DCL, Administrator, Minister, and Facilities Coordinator); Treasurer’s Report and Financial Statements; UUS Right Relations Agreement; Social Justice Action Fund (SJAF) Policy – draft03182018 (Feldmann); SJAF Background and Update (Feldmann); Board Contact Information 2018-2019 (Voelker).
Other items included: UUS Board Covenant July2018 (DeWitt); Johnson County Interfaith Cluster Covenant (JCIC) (Joel Gilbertson-White); Proposal to Join JCIC (Joel Gilbertson-White); It’s Time Visioning Workshop Planning Pre-Proposal, version 071218 (Kelly O’Berry and Kirk Witzberger); Interim Ministry Transition Team Charge (Voelker).*

Feldmann noted that the consent agenda includes a report from the Social Justice Action Fund (SJAF) committee. They will begin submitting quarterly reports to the Board. They also provided a draft SJAF Policy revision which will undergo 1st read at the August Board meeting.

Moved by Voelker, seconded by Pomrehn to lift from the Consent Agenda the question from Jeff Walberg presented by Garrigues related to publicity plans. Motion carried.

Moved by Pomrehn, seconded by Laughlin to receive the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

Publicity Coordinator Request: Garrigues shared a written request from our new Publicity Coordinator, Jeff Walberg. In it he states that before spending the remaining Chalice Lighters Grant funds, the Publicity Committee needs clarity from the Board about future efforts to rename the congregation; specifically, whether our name is likely to change in the next two years or so. The Board responded with the following motion.

Moved by Voelker, seconded by Fretz that the Board considers undertaking efforts to change our congregational name very unlikely in the next 2-3 years and supports the Publicity Committee using their funds in ways they feel appropriate. Motion carried with one abstention.

Johnson County Interfaith Cluster Proposal: Joel Gilbertson-White presented a proposal for UUS to join the Johnson County Interfaith Cluster (JCIC) and shared the JCIC Covenant. He gave an overview of JCIC, which is committed to long-term, productive, interfaith collaboration that creates justice, especially for persons of color experiencing racial and economic inequality. Highlighted was that JCIC's work is a clear match with UUA values and those we hold as a congregation. Gilbertson-White also emphasized that this partnership is not about simply signing a petition but rather enables people to get to know each other – one on one.

Moved by Pomrehn, seconded by Voelker that additional time be given to this agenda item so that discussion can continue. Motion carried.

Discussion included the financial and time commitments required, the role of the UUS minister or representative, the national structure of JCIC and the Gamaliel organization, and the decentralized nature of social justice work by UUS.

Moved by Feldmann, seconded by Laughlin that we table further discussion of JCIC until September when Joel Gilbertson-White can return and Rev. Diane can provide input. Motion carried.

Workshop Proposal Discussion: Kirk Witzberger and Kelly O'Berry submitted to the Board a "Visioning Workshop Planning Pre-Proposal" and asked whether the Board was supportive of their work to offer a congregational visioning workshop. If so, they are requesting Board approval to move forward with forming a core planning group and that member of the Board be on the group. This core-planning group would develop and present a finalized proposal and budget to the Board within the next month or two for review. Board members expressed gratitude for their efforts and willingness to provide leadership. Discussion included: concerns about the timing of visioning work within the interim period, the need for Rev. Diane's involvement, request for more information about the workshop's structure and an outline detailing what will be covered, and how/who will follow-up on the enthusiasm and information gained from the event.

Moved by Pomrehn, seconded by Higgins that the Board encourages Witzberger and O'Berry to move forward with plans to assemble a core planning group for a visioning workshop this fall. Furthermore, the Board understands the need for considerable participation by the congregation and will actively support that effort. Motion carried.

Pomrehn also agreed to be on the core planning group.

Other: DeWitt recapped the Board's previous work to create the Augusta Chapin Meritorious Service Award. This award recognizes, celebrates, and thanks individuals who have shown sustained high levels of engagement and service in the daily life of UUS over extended periods of time. DeWitt emphasized that the Board needs to move forward and present this award to its first recipient soon. Voelker shared the Interim Transition Team's charge. She will forward it to the co-chairs and encourage them to begin planning Rev. Diane's August meeting schedule. It was noted that Emma Barnum, Congregational Administrator, placed a sign by each entry door providing instructions on how to lock and unlock the building. Barnum will also be retrained on the key card system by the vendor.

Guest Comments: Sharon Booker shared several observations she had from attending the meeting. These included that she felt it was productive, that members were cooperative, and that time was used efficiently, while allowing for flexibility.

Laughlin reported as process observer, and Zimmer-Saltzman provided closing words. The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m. to *Closed Session*. The next Board meeting is Thursday, August 9, 2018, starting at 6:30 p.m. in the UUS Conference Room.

Submitted by Peg Voelker, Secretary