

Unitarian Universalist Society
Board of Trustees
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – June 13, 2019

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

Present: Jane DeWitt (President), Jim Laughlin (Past-President), Amy Fretz (Vice-President), Chris Rode (Treasurer), Peg Voelker (Secretary), Michael Honey-Arcement (Trustee), Paul Pomrehn (Trustee), and Sara Feldmann (Trustee).

Absent: Colleen Higgins (Trustee), and Rev. Diane Dowgiert (Ex officio Interim Minister).

Guests: Allison Bettine, John Raley, and Joe Rasmussen.

A potluck dinner with the newly elected Board members was held prior to the meeting. Board President DeWitt called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m. Sara Feldmann provided opening words followed by the chalice lighting and a check-in by Board members. Higgins attempted to participate in the meeting via telephone – but given the poor quality of the conference room speaker phone the call ended.

Consent Agenda & Announcements: Consent agenda and other items are reviewed by Board member prior to the meeting.

Consent Agenda items: June Board Agenda; June Executive Committee Minutes; May 2019 Congregational Minutes; Interim Minister's Monthly Report; Treasurer's Report & Financials; 2019-2020 UUS Board Contact Information Sheet Draft (Voelker); and May 2019 Congregational Meeting Vote Tally (Voelker). *Other items:* Conflict of Interest Policy (Rode).

Noted from the minister's monthly report was that Rev. Dowgiert and the staff plan to hold a series of forums in the fall to continue and broaden recent conversations about the Freethinker Friendly Congregation designation and our theological diversity. Also, an all-congregation potluck is scheduled for Friday, August 23, to interactively reflect on the history of UUS. And a congregation-wide Mission/Vision Workshop is scheduled for Saturday, September 28.

The Board decided that Congregational Meeting Minutes should be approved by the congregation at the next congregational meeting, instead of by the Board. *Moved by Rode, seconded by Voelker that the Board receive the Consent Agenda and approve the June Executive Committee minutes. Motion carried.*

Leadership Development Committee Vacancy: DeWitt reviewed that our by-laws state that the Board has the power to fill vacancies on elected committees until the next Elections Meeting. *DeWitt moved, seconded by Fretz to approve the recommendation from the Leadership Development Committee (LDC) to appoint David Tokuhisa to fill the open position on the LDC. Motion carried.*

Financial Issues: The Endowment Committee notified the Board that the 5% annual spending allocation (ASA) for 2019 is \$50,413 – \$10,000 less than budgeted. This brings the projected budget shortfall for the year to approximately \$52,000. The Board discussed the recent message to the congregation from the Stewardship Committee and available options to cover any budget shortfall. These options include an increase in contributions/revenue, drawing from unrestricted cash reserves, obtaining congregational approval to use additional non-corporate endowment funds, and cutting back on UUA dues. The Board will continue to monitor the situation – no action needed at this time.

Rode shared that the University of Iowa Community Credit Union allows for multiple funds without additional charges. DeWitt signed the forms to create the relevant individual endowment funds.

The Board also briefly discussed potential fundraising for the Minister's Discretionary Fund and Choir Section Leader position that was mentioned in Rev. Dowgiert's report. There was general agreement

that funds be allocated through the yearly budget rather than by piecemeal requests and special fundraisers. DeWitt will follow-up with Rev. Dowgiert and Gloria Corbin.

Conflict of Interest – Proposed Policy Statement: Rode developed and shared a UUS Board Conflict of Interest Policy. The second reading of the policy and Board vote will occur during the next Board meeting.

Governance Committee Update: Fretz shared that the Governance Committee (GC) met recently and agreed to use the Hotchkiss book as a template for their review and creation of UUS policies. Pomrehn explained that individual GC members are working on sections of the Board Policy Document. Particularly, the following sections: Role of the Board and Board Committees, Global Delegation to the Head of Staff, and Personnel Guidance and Limitations. He commented that they recognize the December deadline to include these materials in the UUS Ministerial Search packet. They have also identified other materials (e.g., sections of by-laws) in need of revision in preparation for our new settled minister. Joe Rasmussen will become a member of the GC in July.

Departing Board Members Appreciation: The following departing Board members were recognized for their service: Sara Feldmann (Financial Trustee), Jim Laughlin (Past-President), and Peg Voelker (Secretary).

Closing: Laughlin provided closing words. Michael Honey-Arcement reported as Process Observer. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. The next Board meeting is Thursday, July 11, 2019 starting at 6:30 p.m. in the UUS Conference Room.

Submitted by Peg Voelker, Secretary