

UUCA Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

23 Edwin Place

August 6, 2019

Present: Michael Beech, Cecil Bennett, Nora Carpenter, Clyde Hardin, Judy Harper, James “Buck” Schall, and Mariah Wright; Mark Ward, Ex-Officio

Guest: Rev. Claudia Jimenez, Minister of Faith Development

Chalice Lighting/Opening Reading: Mariah

Getting to Know One Another: Board members each presented a brief bio for the benefit of Rev. Claudia, who met the assembled board for the first time this evening.

Comments by Rev. Claudia: Rev. Claudia briefly summarized her first year at UUCA and thanked the board for their work, especially those of us who participated in her Start-Up workshop, where she addressed the challenges for her new ministry, given the fact that we must do more with less and thus have decisions to make about what we can and cannot do with our RE program. She also addressed the issue of policy governance as it relates to faith development: What is our vision? What is the board’s role? She reported on the current state of our Justice Ministry and our goal of exploring multiculturalism. Rev. Claudia also said that she is doing some training around interim ministry in order to support the board and our congregation as we approach Mark’s retirement, as well as being able to support and work with an interim minister beginning next summer.

OLD BUSINESS:

General Assembly Report: Cecil directed our attention to the report from GA filed by delegate Brett Johnston. Judy presented a report from GA emphasizing workshops which she attended, in particular a workshop dealing with UU becoming more welcoming of transgender and nonbinary people. She passed around an information sheet about an online course on the subject, *Transgender Inclusion in Congregations*, put together by the Transforming Hearts Collective,

and stated her intention of taking the course and reporting back to the board. Some discussion ensued concerning the need to become more welcoming and ways in which to do that, including the use of preferred pronouns on nametags.

Report on Limitation H: The consensus of the board after reading the results of the **Mini-Review of Financial Practices**, performed by Finance Committee members Sammy Fong and Ann Perry, was that all areas examined were essentially in order, although there needs to be more vigilance around the policy of at least two people signing all checks for more than \$5000 for nonrecurring expenses, a problem which is in the process of being addressed; we need to find a way to handle the check signing process in such a way that the business of the congregation will not become unnecessarily unwieldy.

NEW BUSINESS:

Vote on New Leadership Development Committee Member: Susan Andrew had been nominated. There was no discussion. A motion was made to approve her nomination. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

What's Happening: All board members have a copy of Mark's written report, and he particularly pointed out the new **Push Pay** app which we will begin using very shortly, with the expectation that members will be able to make donations during the service more easily, especially to the Community Plate. The app will also send out notifications about such things as snow closings and special programs. There was also some discussion of last Sunday's announcement from Mark concerning his upcoming retirement as our lead minister and how the announcement was received by the congregation.

Limitation B: Mark reported that this Limitation, concerning **Right Relations**, is going under review for the benefit of our insurance company, which is requiring us to update our policies with an eye to mitigating risk. This item will be revisited when more is known.

Intercultural Development Inventory Discussion: Mark showed a short film narrated by IDI facilitator Beth Zemsky, who spoke about diversity, inclusion and equity and the need to find commonality while seeing differences, as we face the fact that awareness and sensitivity aren't enough to address multicultural issues.

The IDI program requires an individual assessment interview for each participant and a one on one ZOOM session with IDI facilitator Tamara Lebak, followed in November by a facilitated group meeting. The board agreed that this would be useful for all board members and a good use of board funds. A motion was made to use \$900 of the \$2000 board fund for that purpose. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Interim Structural Discussion: Mark reiterated that the board has the authority to decide how we move forward with transition from his ministry to an interim ministry. He suggested that we contact Keith Kron, Director of the Transitions Office at the UUA, for help with transition issues. We will need to form an Interim Ministry Committee in the near future.

BOARD TASKS: Mariah and Judy were reminded that they agreed to represent the Board at the 9:30 - 2:00 Membership Class in Sandburg Hall on August 17th. Additional board members signed up for board tasks as follows: Clyde and Cecil will be working with Buck on Maintenance of the Policy Governance Document; Cecil will assist Michael with the Communications tasks; and Nora will assist Judy with the task of recruiting General Assembly Delegates. Mariah asked for participants in a new Board Visibility Committee. Meetings of the committee will begin in September. Board members were encouraged to submit ideas to her even if they cannot serve on the committee.

Consent Agenda: The minutes of the July meeting of the Board were moved and approved with no corrections.

Closing Reading: Mariah

Executive Session

Minutes submitted by Judy Harper, Clerk

Sept. Volunteers: Dishes-Clyde; Dinner-Cecil; Readings-Ryan; Blog-Ryan

Board Council Meeting: August 27th **Board Meeting:** September 3rd

September Meet Your Board: Buck and Louise

