

First Universalist Church, Unitarian Universalist
Auburn, ME
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
December 29, 2022

Present: Ed Bell (member-at-large), Anne Perron (President), Linda Greathouse (Vice President), Claire Hebert (member-at-large), Jane Pentheny (member-at-large), David Das (Clerk), Betty Riggin (member-at-large); Rev. Jodi Hayashida (*ex officio*)

Guests: Angela Foss, Levesque

6:30: Anne Perron called the meeting to order. Anne brought out a “Board Chalice” that she has created: a piece of 60-80 year old apple wood (grows slowly; dense) with hieroglyph figures to represent the Church supported by 3 legs made of oak with similar figures to represent the many members of the congregation who support the church.



Ed Bell read the Mission Statement; Betty Riggin read the Vision Statement.

Sharing by Board members.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

- Accepting the December 7, 2022 Meeting Minutes
- Ratifying the Board email vote on the Communication Covenant

Updates:

- Newsletter: who to take over editorial responsibility?

- Ellen O'Brien communication: positive response to the financial plea from Finance Committee. Checking account now at \$33,000 (up from \$16,000). Just made final mortgage payment on church building.
- Good vibe from Christmas Eve service.

To-Do List: Prioritize

1. Discernment process
2. Create a task force to find alternative to Robert's Rules. Angela Foss to coordinate the task force.
 - 2a. Rebooting Council of Committees. Scheduling a meeting. How to recruit without a Nominating Committee? How to craft and put out the call for volunteers?
3. Update Church Directory
4. PSDIC parameters: how to manage a low-barrier drop-in center? How do a low-barrier center and a low-barrier church interact? Health and safety standards.
5. Religious Exploration: next steps? What does RE look like across the UUA? Rev. Jodi to investigate RE models.
6. Zoom participation at Board meetings. Need to craft a policy bearing in mind the destructive impact of Zoom participation at Spring/Summer 2022 Board meetings.

Discernment Process around the PSDIC:

An extended discussion. Broached the possibility/desirability of an outside facilitator. Rev. Jodi to connect with facilitator.

Sketched out a three part process:

- Frequently Asked Questions: create a list of questions and answers; distribute it as a handout and online.
- Truth Telling: facilitated sessions where people may name their experience.
- Discernment: specific discussion of how to make co-existence possible. Discrete issues and topics.

Guest Comments:

- Levesque:

- expressed their concern about PSDIC guests smoking (weed and tobacco) on church grounds; church goers should not be asked to walk through/by the smoke; it creates a bad impression of the church.
- Status of PSDIC 501(c)(3) plans?
- All conversation between Board and PSDIC co-chairs should be in public at meetings of the Board.

8:55: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

David H. Das (Clerk)