

First Universalist Church, Unitarian Universalist
Auburn, ME
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
January 3, 2024

Community Meeting Room

Present: Anne Perron (President), Linda Greathouse (Vice-President), David Das (Clerk), Claire Hebert (member-at-large), Jane Pentheny (member-at-large), John Spruill (member-at-large), Reverend Patrick McLaughlin (*ex officio*) via Zoom, phone, semaphore.

Guests: Charles Nero, Esther Tucker, Angela Foss, Levesque

6:35: Anne Perron called the meeting to order.



Board Chalice

Anne read the Mission Statement.

Jane read a section from the “Covenant for Auburn UU Board of Directors” from the Board Policy Manual.

Anne lit the chalice; she called on all of us to work together to create and strengthen community.

Brief sharing by Board members.

Minister’s Report:

- Met with Committee on Ministry
 - COM enthusiastic about the Covenant development process. The COM hopes that small group conversations may prove to be a path whereby people deepen/re-establish their connections to the church.

President’s Report:

- Fire Alarm system names need to be changed. Will work with Greg Bianconi on this. Need to create a new contact list.
- Room shift with Drop-In Center to take place Sunday and Monday.
- Proposed that old vestry wooden chairs to be sold at Mechanic Falls booth with proceeds to the church. Board agreed.
- Christmas Eve advertising: at church, Face Book, newspaper. Clarify that there is no morning service.

Board Member Communications:

- John: Paula Spruill reports that new people have attended church in the past three weeks.

Consent Agenda:

- November 15, 2023 Minutes

Motion to approve: Jane

Second: John

Unanimous approval.

Open Session:

- Esther:
 - This year is the 100 year anniversary of the First Universalist supporting the Clara Barton Fund.
 - Will get info to Toby and to Claudia regarding this year's collection
 - Announcement on Sunday.
- Levesque:
 - Concern about neighbor parking in Reverend Patrick's spot after snow storm. Prevents them from plowing the area between the church and the apartment building. Happened last year. Board would have to formally contact Don's Towing if we wished to have car towed.

Rental Agreement:

- Need to have a formal agreement form with increase in interested groups.
 - Look at other UU church forms: Brunswick, Ellsworth
- Need to formalize fees.

- Wedding rental agreement has different stipulations.
- Specific questions:
 - Would a group ever need a key?
 - Possible sexton.
 - Need a rental process and rental coordinator (not a Board responsibility)
- Next step: create an agreement form ASAP.
 - Mike Giasson to offer his expertise.
 - David to re-draft the draft; share over email.

Town Hall Planning:

- What gets you excited? What fires you up? What makes you happy?
- Board members to gather over next several weeks to plan the Town Hall.

Religious Exploration Discussion:

- Two individuals have expressed interest in coordinating a RE program. (Esther suggested two others)
- How to proceed?
 - Introduce RE as a central issue at the January 7 Town Hall.
 - Seek congregational input about what people want in an RE program.
 - Post-January 7: Patrick will meet with those who may be interested in coordinating the program.

Web Site Discussion:

- Long standing awareness that the web site needs work.
 - Our outward looking face
 - More dynamic presence
 - Should not rely on Facebook
 - Internal informational and communication opportunities
- Need for a separate group to address web site issues
 - More than a tech committee issue.
- How to proceed?
 - Introduce the web site as a central issue at the January 7 Town Hall (see RE notes above).
 - Discussion could lead to creation of web site task force.

Comments:

- Angela:

- Board should be aware that January 7 Town Hall has become a more prescriptive event.
 - not simply asking for congregational input, but establishing discussion subjects.
- Need to establish a Town Hall exit strategy
 - Clear summary of outcomes
 - Identify those who are interested in specific issues.
 - Immediate follow-up
 - Create task forces/working groups ASAP.

8:30 Motion to enter Executive Session

- Personal issue of a congregant

Motion: Linda Second: David Unanimous.

8:51 Out of Executive Session

8:52 Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

David H. Das (Clerk)