

First Universalist Church, Unitarian Universalist
Auburn, ME
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2024
Bonnie Soper Room

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

Guests: Angela Foss, Levesque

7:08: Anne Perron called the meeting to order.



Board Chalice

John 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:

- Stewardship campaign.
 - Working with Toby.
 - March 10 – Stewardship Sunday.
 - Any Board input needed quickly.
- Contract templates; establish sick time and holidays.
- Met with Claudia re: job description and salary.
 - Claudia’s Office Hours: WThF, 7am-10am and by appointment.
- Office Printer
 - We need to purchase one ASAP.

- Lord Shiva:
 - giveth: Wi-Fi improved at 159 Pleasant St.
 - taketh away: plumbing issues at 159 Pleasant St.
- Council of Committees:
 - Need to set up a meeting.
 - To determine what is working/what isn't working/where any gaps may be.

President's Report:

- Working with Erica Baron and Christine Purcell at the UUA re: minister search.
- Attended February 20 Finance Committee meeting.
 - raised Music and RE as Board priorities.
 - A monthly Finance presence at Board meetings (Zoom is fine)
- Met with Pam Weeks re: new sound system for Vestry.

Board Member Communications:

- David: Community conversation on Homelessness led by Paul Schofield (Philosophy professor at Bates), facilitated by the Harvard Center at Bates. First Universalist Church to be a collaborator (no money involved). Time and date TBD.
- Jane: looking to recruit a legislative liaison for *MUUSAN* (Maine UU State Advocacy Network) and to (re)build the Social Justice Committee. Will send out email to congregation.

Consent Agenda:

- February 7, 2024 Minutes

Motion to approve: Jane

Second: John

Unanimous approval.

Open Session:

- Levesque: tech improvements at 159 Pleasant Street and church office.

Covid Policy:

- Board designated Jane Pentheny to monitor CDC website per Covid policy.
 - Will work with Toby to get current Covid level information in Saturday email.

Motion: David

Second: Anne

Unanimous approval

Board Communication with Committees:

- Schedule a Council of Committees meeting for March 24 (coffee hour-ish).
- Request that committees provide the Board with brief informational update after each committee meeting.
- Should seriously consider Zoom option for committee meetings; provides flexibility.

Comments:

- Angela:
 - Need for a clear Council of Committees agenda.
 - Need for calendar clarity.
 - Committee chairs need guidance with regard to expectations and resources. Currently working in a vacuum.

Building Safety Policy:

- Does not make sense to discuss proposed draft:
 - A number of drafts and policies already exist in scattered locations
 - One comprehensive policy addressing building/fire safety and active shooter protocols? Discrete policies and protocols?
- Decision to review 2 policies per Board meeting; in line with Board role in Policy Based Governance model.
 - Safety policy pushed to March 6 meeting (ability to collate existing materials).
- Need for a central, easily accessible repository for policies.
- How to make a policy relevant?
 - Not simply a piece of paper.
 - Establish who needs to know the stipulations of a particular policy.

- i.e. Worship Associates should be well versed in Building Evacuation procedure.

Comments:

- Levesque: We should invite the Auburn Police Department to do an annual walk through of the church; to become familiar with the space. Crucial in their response to an incident.
- Angela: need to create a basic policy template.

Town Hall Discussion:

- How best to address Lifespan RE from Children through Adults.
- OWL (Our Whole Lives) Sexuality program as a great outreach to older youth and young adults both within and without the congregation.
- Patrick will meet with possible candidate for RE coordinator.
- Perhaps more of a coffee hour conversation than Town Hall.
- Stay tuned.....

9:10 Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

David H. Das (Clerk)