

First Universalist Church, Unitarian Universalist  
Auburn, ME  
Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes  
January 18, 2023

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

Invited Guests: John Spruill

Guests: Angela Foss, Levesque, Joan Chandler, Tricia Griffin

6:30: Anne Perron called the meeting to order.



*Board Chalice*

Sharing by Board members

Ed read the Mission Statement.

Jane read the Vision Statement.

Anne lit the chalice

**Approval of Consent Agenda:**

- Accepting the January 4, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Jane; Second: Betty. Unanimous.

**Open Session:**

- No comments.

### **February Facilitation Session:**

- Rev. Jodi provided a planning update. She had a conversation with Rev. Paul Langston-Daley. Rev. Langston-Daley is on for February 18; agreed that the bottom end of the payment sliding scale fits our situation; he will submit an updated proposal. He wishes to have a preliminary conversation with some/all members of the Board.

### **John Spruill Proposal: (proposal appended)**

- John presented his proposal to create a Center for Hopefulness whose goal would be to end homelessness in the Twin Cities.
- John has created and registered a 501(c)(3) corporation in Maine.
- Has sent out a letter to 47 different faith communities; 4 responses so far.
- John has looked at Preble Street (Portland) and attempts in Utah.
- Looking to create enough of a groundswell of support that the city councils will change ordinances regarding shelters and help finance the Center for Hopefulness.
- John is looking for the First Universalist Church to become a formal member of the Center for Hopefulness.

Board Comments: Positive response. Awareness of the significance of having the church sponsor an organization. Rev. Jodi questioned whether the organization could be seen as speaking for the church. The proposal would require a vote by the congregation; tentative date would be at the Annual Meeting in June.

### **Guest Comments:**

- Joan Chandler:
  - fully supports the mission of the project; does need congregational approval
- Levesque:
  - supports the project; would require significant capital investment.

### **Creation of Task Force on Liability and Insurance:**

- Board nominated: Greg Whitney, Greg Bianconi.

### **Creation of Task Force on Alternatives to Robert's Rules:**

- Board nominated: Angela Foss, John Spruill, Anne Kinney, Craig Saddlemire.

### **Revitalizing Committee Life:**

Anne and Linda presented a proposal aimed at injecting new life into our committees. Proposal in the form of an illustration (see appended):

- Committees to be organized in thematic clusters
- Board liaison to each cluster
- Hope to spur conversation between the committees in each cluster
- Committee work informed by the church's mission which in turn is nourished by members and friends
- Committee work has impact on the broader community beyond the walls of 169 Pleasant Street

Need to recreate the Leadership Development Committee (perhaps invite past Board presidents).

Need to discuss proposal with current committee chairs. A joint meeting of the Board and Council of Committees to be scheduled for **Wednesday, January 25, 2023 at 6:30 in the Vestry.**

Guest Comments:

- John Spruill:
  - As a committee chair, he would welcome having a Board liaison.

8:25: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

David H. Das (Clerk)