

First Universalist Church, Unitarian Universalist
Auburn, ME
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2023

Present: Anne Perron (President), Linda Greathouse (Vice President), David Das (Clerk), Jane Pentheny (member-at-large) arrived at 7 pm; Rev. Jodi Hayashida (*ex officio*)

Guests: Levesque; Angela Foss (chair, Music Associates)

6:37: Anne Perron called the meeting to order.

David read the Mission Statement; Linda read the Vision Statement.



Board Chalice

Anne brought out the “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.

Brief Sharing by Board members.

Board reordered the agenda due to the lack of a quorum.

Open Session: No comments

Interim Minister Search Update:

Linda reported that the Interim Search Committee had not met since the previous Board meeting. Next steps:

- Board Retreat on Friday, March 17 to work on the application.
- UUA Transitions Office will provide feedback on the application

- ISC will fine tune the application based on UUA comments
- ISC will formally submit the application in April

7 pm: Jane in attendance; quorum requirement met.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of March 1, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Motion by Anne to approve, second by Linda. Unanimous.

Update on Council of Committee Meeting:

Linda referred us to the meeting minutes for details. She highlighted some specific items:

- Discussion around website visibility and process
- Breeze software as a particular issue: Greg Bianconi mentioned that Mary Kay Wiesenberger willing to do Breeze training; suggestion to move Directory to Breeze.

Guest comments:

- Angela Foss: need to coordinate Breeze training and use. Who is the Breeze administrator? Who coordinates access? She will reach out to Greg B. and Mary Kay.

Congregational Meeting:

Discussion centered on the process of how to address the motion adopted at the November 6, 2022 congregational meeting; what has happened, what is happening, and what will happen.

- October 29, 2022 session with Leah Boyd laid the basis for the Nov. 6 meeting.
- November 6, 2022 adopted motion:
 - continue the Pleasant Street Drop-In Center.
 - by April 17, 2023, the Board of Directors and the Pleasant Street Drop-In Center Steering Committee will present recommendations regarding the future parameters of the Pleasant Street Drop-In Center.

- continue discussion and discernment with the goal of re-establishing balance between and among the various Church ministries (the Board will lay out the details soon)
- request that the Pleasant Street Drop-In Center Steering Committee explore other collaborators and sites for the Pleasant Street Drop-In Center.
- Since November 6:
 - 4+ months of observation/interaction/discussion
 - individual discussions
 - 2 discernment sessions with Reverend Paul Langston-Daley
 - Written and verbal recommendations from Rev. Paul Langston-Daley
 - In the process of creating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the PSDI (per Rev. Langston-Daley's recommendation)
 - Scheduling a meeting between members of the Board and the Steering Committee to agree upon the MOU.
 - Entire Board will vote on the MOU at its April 5, 2023 meeting
 - Initiate monthly Town Hall discussions (per Rev. Langston-Daley's recommendation). First Town Hall to discuss the MOU; scheduled for April.
 - Review the MOU by June 15, 2023

Guest Comment: Levesque – they thought that members expect a congregational meeting and vote in April on the future of the PSDI.

Brief discussion of the need to formalize a Safe Congregation policy.

Guest comments: Levesque advocated for the placement of security cameras around the church as an effective deterrent. Previous concerns about personal privacy are moot as our neighbors (Dairy Joy, Mechanics Savings) have cameras that already pick up activity on our grounds.

Annual Meeting:

- Sunday, June 4, 2023, 11:30 am

Website Discussion:

A very brief discussion centered on the understanding that the website (our outward looking face) needs work.

- Need to create a website policy

- Meet with Ben Whitman (webmaster) for a general website overview and to identify areas which could be addressed soon (awareness that interim minister applicants will be looking at our website)

Board Member “check-out”

8:45 Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

David H. Das (Clerk)