

First Universalist Church, Unitarian Universalist
Auburn, ME
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
March 20, 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), Reverend Patrick McLaughlin (*ex officio*).

Invited Guest: Ellen O'Brien (Treasurer)

Guests: Levesque

7:02: Anne Perron called the meeting to order.



Board Chalice

Linda 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.

Minister's Report:

- Lots of stuff coming together.

President's Report:

- Anne has had more formal contact with Allen Ave UU Church (A²U²) administrator regarding a half day contract work. Projected start in June.
- A²U² has been renting its sanctuary to two African church groups. Shared advice on managing the rental relationship.

- Roof leak over the choir loft.
- Leak in shower drain in new bathroom. Greg Bianconi will address.
- Chemical cabinet now established in back hallway. All materials need to be clearly labeled.

Board Member Communications:

- Jane: Esther Tucker brought up possibility of a concert at church by Dave Rowe in the summer. Link it with a photo show by Stacey.
- John: Board has yet to schedule its axe-throwing social. Formal call for Rose Window Award nominations to go out after Stewardship campaign closes.
- Linda: Anne Kinney encourages Board participation at Ferry Beach.

Consent Agenda:

- March 6, 2024 Minutes

Motion to approve: John

Second: Claire

Unanimous approval.

Open Session:

- No Comments

Treasurer's Report (Ellen O'Brien):

- Brief overview of committee membership and approach
 - Aiming for full transparency in committee actions and deliberations.
- Overall message:
 - "We're doing ok."
 - Income/Expenses in balance
 - Checkbook balance decent.
- Summary of the accounts.
 - What monies are/are not available for distribution
 - Idea of using monies to initiate transformational change
- Legacy/Estate giving possibilities should be investigated.
- Need to follow up on 159 Pleasant St apartment rental amount with City of Auburn (Section VIII). John will do so.

- The importance of the Church Fair (a fundraiser, but also an important fellowship event).

General Safety Policy:

- Motion to adopt: Jane; Second: John
- Unanimous approval.

Fire Safety Protocols:

- Motion to approve: John; Second: Jane
- Unanimous approval.

Religious Exploration Conversation (Patrick)

- Patrick has had a conversation with an individual who would be interested in part time position of RE Coordinator.
 - Already possesses the knowledge and skill set to do the job; to grow the program.
- Position would include coordinating with Adult RE.
- Need to be open to new ideas about how to deliver RE; who our participants may be.
 - The growing multicultural nature of the LA region. How do we broaden our appeal?
- Patrick will provide the Board with UUA data regarding salary guidelines.
- Perhaps an area to use funds to facilitate “transformational change.”

Board Meeting Changes:

- Starting in April: meet once a month on the first Wednesday.
- Third Wednesday could be used for Executive Committee meeting (officers) or Task Force meetings.
- Change to meeting format: will add a second Open Session at the end of the meeting for non-agenda items.

Policy Discussion:

- Need an updated alcohol policy:

- Linda has unearthed a 2016 document approving changes to an existing policy, but the actual policy has disappeared into the First Universalist ~~black hole~~ archive.
- David will scope out policies at other UU churches.
- Need to update Rental Agreement for Weddings and Ceremonies to allow consumption of alcohol in the Vestry.

General Assembly Delegates:

- We have 3 voting delegates.
 - Anne Kinney
 - Looking for two others; will ask for volunteers; look beyond the Board.
- Annual Meeting: get a sense from the congregation re: its position on various GA items.
- Anne will liaise with Anne Kinney.

9:10 Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

David H. Das (Clerk)