

First Universalist Church, Unitarian Universalist  
Auburn, ME  
Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes  
Ed's Birthday  
March 3, 2025

Present: David Das (President), Anne Perron (Vice President), Jane Pentheny (member-at-large), Ed Bell (member-at-large); John Spruill (member-at-large); Claire Hebert (member-at-large) via Zoom

Excused: Linda Greathouse

7:00 David called the meeting to order.



Chalice Lighting

Opening Words

Sharing by Board members

*Board Chalice*

**Board Communications:**

- Minister reveal to take place on Sunday. Minister will lead service.
- Social Justice Town Hall to be scheduled; Diane Chasse is working with Rev. Diane Fisher
- Anne will ask Bill Eldridge if he is interested in continuing as Church Historian
- Group interested in forming a Library committee

- Anne: looking to remake stairway/hallway from office level to Vestry into a memorial hallway.

### **Approval of Consent Agenda:**

- Acceptance of the January 4, 2025 Meeting Minutes
  - Motion by Jane; Second by John. Unanimous

### **Discussion and Delegation:**

- **General Assembly Delegates**
  - David will ask Diane Chasse about possible interest.
- **Rose Window Award Nominations:**
  - John will ask Toby to send out call for nominations. Deadline: April 30
- **Policy on Board Voting via Email**

Agreement that current policy (1.7 in the Board Policy Manual) needs to be clarified and amended. Questions included (not limited to):

- Applicability of unanimous written consent
- Written record of conversation and vote
- Varying means of communication

John volunteered to develop a draft policy.

Executive Session: John moved, Jane seconded, motion to enter Executive Session at 7:46 to discuss contract issue. Exited Executive Session at 8:02.

8:03: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Bell (Substitute Clerk)

## Minister's Report

### 1.4.23

This report is primarily informational **but does include one action item.**

**Facilitated meeting update:** I reached out to Paul Langston-Daley, the facilitator recommended by Anne Kinney that I had originally contacted in the fall. He is still willing to work with the congregation. The only date in February (the month I believe we were aiming for) that he has available is the weekend of February 18th. [Here is a link](#) to Paul's proposal from this fall. While it may shift slightly, his description and price range will still be largely applicable. Because of his limited availability, **it would be beneficial if we decided whether or not to move ahead at this board meeting.**

#### **Proposed Zoom access process:**

The board is committed to expanding accessibility to church life and process whenever possible. At the same time, we recognize the challenges of conducting in-depth conversation with healthy boundaries, especially with larger groups, in person and over zoom simultaneously. Therefore, we request that participants prioritize in-person attendance at board meetings whenever possible, accessing the meeting through zoom only when necessary. If members or friends are attending as observers, we ask that they do so in person to avoid pulling focus away from the conversation at hand and onto the need to manage technology.

**Calendar-** I've asked Ben what needs to happen so that Claudia can access the calendar on the website so that she can update it regularly. Once that process is clarified, Claudia and I will figure out how to best ensure she has the info she needs to keep the calendar current.

**Event creation process-** Toby has found her proposal for an event creation process that the board was just beginning to look at when the pandemic struck. The sense of the board at the time was that, though the process as mapped out would need to be significantly simplified to make it a manageable process for folks, Toby had done an excellent job of thinking through every detail of what members and friends would want to consider as they prepared to offer an event.

**Religious Education:** I have not had time since returning from Christmas Break to have significant conversation with colleagues about RE and how it is changing/has changed in their churches. I'll spend time before our next meeting doing that research. Until then, here are two resources for those of you who may want to poke around yourselves. First, [The Death of Sunday School](#), written in 2017, is a paper by UUA staff that maps out some of what we talked

we have been talking about here for years- the idea that the current model of Sunday School simply does not work for many modern families. And [here](#) is the UUA page on multi-generational ministry, one of the ways churches are addressing the dual realities of the failure of the Sunday School model and the ongoing need for spiritual formation for our children. Lots to talk about moving ahead!

**Committee on Ministry:** As you know, the COM has been meeting weekly for a bit now. Part of our focus has been developing a shared understanding of the COM's purpose and a process by which the congregation can access the COM. Below is a draft description and process. The COM welcomes your feedback! It's also worth noting that this will likely evolve over the course of the year as we see how well it works and meets the needs of the church right now.

***Revised Draft 12-31-22***

## **COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY**

### ROLE

To serve as the designated point of contact for members of the congregation and the Minister in order to ensure mutually strong communications and promote opportunities to resolve concerns and questions.

### COMMITMENTS

The Committee on Ministry (COM) will uphold and support the Covenant on Communications and promote congregational right relations.

Members of the Committee will offer respectful active listening to members of the congregation and the Minister.

All concerns, questions or other matters to be considered by the Committee must be accompanied by explicit permission to share the name of the person offering their thoughts.

When issues are brought to the Committee, all discussions will be strictly confidential.

### PROCESS

Members of the Committee will actively reach out to members of the congregation and to the Minister, offering opportunities to listen.

To meet immediate needs, the Committee will reach out to members of the congregation and offer opportunities to share thoughts, concerns, or questions related to the Church and its ministry.

The Committee will discuss and seek to offer options for resolution.

COM will promote community problem solving whenever possible.