

First Universalist Church, Unitarian Universalist
Auburn, ME
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
May 3, 2023
Community Meeting Room

Present: Anne Perron (President), Linda Greathouse (Vice-President), David Das (Clerk), Ed Bell (member-at-large), Claire Hebert (member-at-large), Betty Riggin (member-at-large), Jane Pentheny (member-at-large).

Guests: Holly Cooney, Angela Foss, Levesque

6:34: Anne Perron called the meeting to order.



Board Chalice

Jane read the Mission Statement.

Claire read the Vision Statement.

Ed read “Philosophy of Governance” from the Board Policy Manual (Book 1, chapter 1, verses 1-10).

Anne lit the chalice; she called on all of us to work together to create and strengthen community.

Brief sharing by Board members.

Consent Agenda:

- April 19, 2023 Minutes

Motion to approve: Claire

Second: Ed

Unanimous approval.

President's Report:

- Ministerial transition interview with Erica Baron from the UUA is scheduled for May 17. It will be in Executive Session during the regularly scheduled Board meeting.
- Is facetimeing with Mary Lou Hoffman on Friday
- Worked on Meeting room on Friday. (gave out water to guests who happened to come by)
- Planning to sand and finish office floor (working with Greg Bianconi).
- Read a letter of appreciation from a congregant.

Open Session:

- Holly thanked Anne and the Board for its work.
- Levesque asked whether there will be a work day to clean up the church grounds. Last year's event was very successful.

Vice-President's Report:

- Linda, as Board liaison to the PSDI Steering Committee, reported on the May 2 SC meeting.
 - SC is publicizing throughout Lewiston-Auburn the shift to Saturday.
 - There is some concern re: having enough volunteers on Saturdays.
 - PSDI volunteers will be at the doors on Sunday (8-11) to remind guests that the PSDI no longer operates on Sunday. They will provide water and sandwiches.
 - Vestry will be cleaned after Saturday program.
 - PSDI expenses average \$1,000 per month. Looking to launch a fundraising appeal.
- Comments:
 - Levesque: suggested a means to determine PSDI utilities usage. Look to establish a baseline by looking at pre-pandemic experience (perhaps over two years). Usage (not cost).

Interim Minister Search Committee Update:

- There are two interested candidates. The Search Committee is enthusiastic about both.
 - Claire and Jane are conducting reference checks on the candidates.
 - Zoom interviews are scheduled for next week.
 - By May 15: Search Committee sends choice(s) to UUA Transitions Office.
 - May 15-17: decision finalized between Board, candidate, and the UUA Transitions Office.

Committee Structure:

- Revisited the Petal/Stem diagram. Basic goal is to improve communication within the congregation; to address the current challenge of small number of volunteers.
 - Extensive discussion devoted to repopulating the petals: which committee should go into which petal.
 - Holly: the categories are not neat and airtight. The same committee could be in more than one petal. Language is important – what are the broader implications of placing a committee in the Worship petal? In the Outreach petal?
 - Angela: the bigger questions – what as an organization do we want to do? What do we have to do? What are the (5) big issues facing the church? How do we define: committee; ministry; taskforce; group?
 - Diagram as a forward-looking work in progress: over time, can we as a congregation use the model to figure out who we are and what we want to do?
 - Will return to it in the future. Meanwhile Linda will have to explain it all at the next Council of Committees meeting.

Sunday Morning Logistics:

- Phil and Pam plan to lock the door behind them once they enter early on Sunday morning.
- Plan to have somebody at the door between 8:45-11:00.

Annual Meeting Preparations:

- Moderator: Rick O'Brien

- Need to compile Annual Report: Board report; committee reports.
- Board report concerns: no information on Board activity between June and October. Do meeting minutes exist? Are there minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting? Jodi did not know the answer to either question. Ed and Betty stated that formal minutes were not kept for the June-October period.

8:45: Board entered Executive Session to discuss Rose Window Award and Board slate for 2023-24.

9:45: Board came out of Executive Session.

9:46: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

David H. Das (Clerk)