

First Universalist Church, Unitarian Universalist
Auburn, ME
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2022

Present: Ed Bell (member-at-large), Anne Perron (President), Claire Hebert (member-at-large), Jane Pentheny (member-at-large), David Das (Clerk), Rev. Jodi Hayashida (*ex officio*)

Guests: Levesque

6:35: Anne Perron called the meeting to order.

Sharing by members.

Ed Bell read the Mission and Vision Statements; Rev. Jodi lit the virtual chalice and said some brief opening words.

Consent Agenda: accepted by the Board thereby approving the November 2, 2022 meeting minutes.

Committee on Ministry: Nominations – Mary Kay Weisenberger, Mary Sylvester, Bill Frayer. (Claire Hebert will contact Mary and Bill). Conversation that Bylaws language regarding nominations to the COM needs to be changed as it is currently inaccurate.

Discussion on how we become ‘US’ again?:

Rev. Jodi: suggested that the Board look into the experiences of other churches as they return from the extended COVID hiatus. Current sense of disconnect not simply the result of the Drop-In Center. What is the impact of the pandemic? Is there a “new” type of church in which people participate virtually? How do we bring people “back?”

Could we reconceive the worship service with small groups at tables in the sanctuary? To help the process of re-connection?

Anne Perron: need to re-energize the church. Brought out some really cool props (cork board, post-its, sharpie, push pins) for a to-do list brainstorming activity. Board and Levesque came up with the following:

- thematic monthly potlucks (fundraising potential)

- 2023 updated Directory
- task force to look at alternatives to Robert's Rules
- identify a vice president of the Board
- a Finance 101 session with Ellen O'Brien (Treasurer)
- publicize Finance Committee meetings with eye to opening them to membership (David to contact Finance chairs)
- update committee chair list
- formalize procedure for member input at Board meetings
- work with Ben Whitman on website changes including Board email address (David to connect with Ben)
- revise Communications policy
- continue discernment process with congregation focusing on issue of Shared Resources. (agreement that this was a priority item)

Cork board with post-its to be on public view.

Policy Based Governance (PBG): Rev. Jodi gave a brief summary of how we came to adopt PBG.

- Previous governance model (Shared Ministry) encouraged the congregation to put forward ideas and projects, yet did not account for implementation and oversight. Did not allow for doing hard things in a healthy way.
- PBG: to clarify authority, responsibility and accountability in congregational life. Empowers committees to take ownership of their spheres of authority. Committees do not need to consult the Board and/or the congregation on issues within their sphere.
 - Board responsible for maintaining Mission and Vision of the church.
 - Minister as "CEO" responsible for ministry and administration.
- Current crisis not due to PBG model. Crisis stems from how to share resources.

Coffee Hour:

- Luke Lunt interested in forming a Hospitality Committee; favorably received by Board.
- How to transform the area in the back of the sanctuary and the Crying Room to make it as welcoming as possible.

Board Welcome and Collection Counting:

- Sign-up sheets were created for both.

December 7 meeting agenda items:

- Vice President position

8:45: Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

David H. Das (Clerk)