

First Universalist Church, Unitarian Universalist
Auburn, ME
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2023
Community Meeting Room

Present: Anne Perron (President), Linda Greathouse (Vice-President), David Das (Clerk), Claire Hebert (member-at-large), Jane Pentheny (member-at-large), John Spruill (member-at-large) via Zoom, Reverend Patrick McLaughlin (*ex officio*)

Guests: Esther Tucker

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



Board Chalice

Anne 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 by Board members.

Minister’s Report:

- Busy.
- Met with Committee on Ministry
 - Continuing conversation about their role for this year.
 - COM will help facilitate conversations about congregational covenant. Aiming for January.
- Established collegial connection with Reverend Duval at High Street Congregational.
- Looking forward to Sunday’s “Stone Soup” service.

President’s Report:

- Great feedback on Sunday services. Patrick's sermons are thought-provoking; people getting a lot out of them.
- Furnace issues at 159 Pleasant St. Currently no heat. Levesque has been a godsend, both with this specific issue and generally with maintenance.
- Kitchen thermostat to be replaced.
- Cleaning up stage – looking towards stage as a rental space for a yoga class.
- Closet at foot of stairs on Dungeon landing: good place to store all chemical and cleaning goods.
- To replace “peninsula of ugly” shelf in Vestry with one that will be flush with the wall. Will not need to be moved for other Vestry events.
- Received form from City of Auburn Tax Assessor to update our non-profit status. David will work on this.

Board Member Communications:

- Claire: has been receiving FB messages from an Evan Youd. Purpose not clear. [Could be phishing]
- David: Claudia should resend the Directory email to the congregation. (Website/email went down at that time)

Consent Agenda:

- November 1, 2023 Minutes

Motion to approve: Jane

Second: Claire

Unanimous approval.

Open Session:

- Esther:
 - Question about status of Rental Agreement and general relations with Drop-In Center. [Board provided update on Monday's meeting with DIC]

Board Approval of Ministerial Housing Allowance:

- IRS requires that the Board approve annually the minister's housing allowance. *Pro forma* but necessary nonetheless.
- To approve minister's housing allowance of \$3,200 per month.

- Motion: Jane; Second: Linda
- Unanimous approval.

General Assembly Planning:

- General Assembly fully online.
- Board/Congregation needs to select delegates; probably 2 -3 delegates given our membership numbers.
 - Patrick:
 - Urged that we do this earlier than usual so that delegates can be well-informed about the revisions to Article II.
 - Delegates can help inform the congregation about the revisions.
 - Perhaps delegates could facilitate a Town Hall on Article II (and other GA topics).
 - Will work on an email to the congregation requesting volunteers to be delegates.

Rental Logistics:

- How to handle the increasing number of requests?
 - Need a system while Breeze is still just a puff.
 - Keeping track of requests.
 - Scheduling; Location.
 - Rates and terms need to be updated (last done in 2014).
 - Draft update by December 13 Board meeting.
- Room Shift with DIC. (Anne to present to Greg W.)
 - DIC to use Community Meeting Room as store room; Bonnie Soper room to be rental room.
 - Easier for DIC to shift items from Vestry into storage; more storage space.
 - Bonnie Soper room a better rental location: proximity to front door and bathroom; heat.
 - Board will meet in Bonnie Soper room.

8:30 Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

David H. Das (Clerk)