

# FUUCA Board of Trustees

## Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, June 18, 2019

**Date/time:** Tuesday, June 18, 2019 Started: 6:30 PM Ended: 8:30 PM  
**Location:** FUUCA  
**Purpose/notes:** Regular scheduled meeting  
**Chaired by:** Tomas Medina  
**Minuted rec. by:** Chris Jimmerson  
**Status:** Minutes distributed

### Attendance

**Present:** Meg Barnhouse, Leena Batra, Leo Collas, Chris Jimmerson, Matthew Kressin, Sadie Lambert, Nesan Lawrence, Tomas Medina, Gay Phillips, Elias Ponvert, Kelly Raley  
**Absent:** Erin Gaines, Sarah Matt, Shannon Posern, Sean Ramsey

### Meeting documents

6 documents attached to agenda items below

### Agenda

## 1. Coming Back into Covenant

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### 1.1. Chalice Lighting and Opening Words

The President gaveled the meeting to order with great flair.

**Status:** Completed

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### 1.2. Reading of Board Covenant

The leadership present read the covenant together.

With the Values, Mission and Ends of First UU Austin foremost in mind, we the leadership do covenant to:

- Treat our time together as spiritual practice
- Work collaboratively to clarify, assess and further our mission.
- Respect our time together by being focused, prepared and timely.
- Keep confidentiality when it is requested.
- Listen actively, address concerns directly with each other in a timely manner, and encourage others to do the same.
- Presume good faith in all our interactions.
- Conduct ourselves openly, show compassion, respect boundaries, and enjoy each other's good humor in times of agreement and disagreement.
- Publicly support one another's decisions and leadership by speaking with one voice at the end of our deliberations.
- Agree to be called back into covenant.

**Status:** Completed

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### 1.3. Confirm Timekeeper, Process Evaluator and Notetaker

The President confirmed Matt Kressin as process evaluator and Meg Barnhouse as timekeeper. Chris Jimmerson agree to take minutes for the current meeting.

**Status:** Completed

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### 1.4. Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda

The members present accepted the agenda and consent agenda after modifying the agenda to include the Visitor Forum and noting that the Program Development Report is informational and not a part of monitoring policy compliance.

The President recognized one visitor who was present to observe how the board functions.

**Status:** Completed

- Minutes of May 2019 meeting.pdf
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## 2. Plan for upcoming year

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### 2.1. Selecting Treasurer

A motion was made and seconded to elect Matt Kressin as Treasurer for the upcoming board year. All members present voted to approve the motion.

**Status:** Completed

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### 2.2. Selecting Secretary

A motion was made and seconded to elect Kelly Raley as Secretary for the upcoming board year. All members present voted to approve the motion.

**Status:** Completed

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### 2.3. Review calendar and covenant

Do we want to:

- 1) keep existing board covenant as is
- 2) modify existing board covenant
- 3) create a completely new board covenant

The members present discussed the board covenant. A motion was made and seconded and all members voted in favor of approving the covenant as revised below (changes/additions bolded):

With the Values, Mission and Ends of First UU Austin foremost in mind, we the leadership do covenant to:

- Treat our time together **and our board commitment** as spiritual practice
- Work collaboratively to clarify, assess and further our mission.
- Respect our time together by being focused, prepared and timely.
- Keep confidentiality when it is requested.
- Listen actively, address concerns directly with each other in a timely manner, and encourage others to do the same.
- Presume good faith in all our interactions, **acknowledging the importance of both intention and impact.**
- Conduct ourselves openly, show compassion, respect boundaries, and enjoy each other's good humor in times of agreement and disagreement.
- Publicly support one another's decisions and leadership by speaking with one voice at the end of our deliberations.
- Agree to be called back into covenant.

The board reviewed the board calendar for the upcoming board year, adding the first RE Interim Session to be held on October 1 and the Revolutionary Love anti-racism/oppression training to be held on October 26. Elias will look into setting up an online Google calendar for this.

**Status:** Completed

- Board of Trustees Annual Calendar 2019.xlsx
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## 2.4. Learning for upcoming year

Potential ideas

Read and discuss:

Growing Up Absorbed: Religious Education among Unitarian Universalists by Richard Gilbert

Mistakes and Miracles by Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin

Watch and discuss:

Unity Consultants videos on policy based governance

The board discussed possibilities for board learning in the upcoming board year, agreeing to read and discuss together the book Mistake and Miracles and the watch and to and discuss the policy based governance videos that are available online from Unity Consulting's presentation on the subject at a prior General Assembly. Link to videos: <https://www.uua.org/leadership/blog/lighting-leadership-chalice-carver-style-policy-based-governance> (click the playlist drop down box in the upper right corner of the video screen to access the other videos in the series).

**Status:** Completed

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## 3. Connecting with our Moral Ownership

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### 3.1. Recognition of Church Volunteers and Staff

Gay Phillips agreed to continue facilitating the thank you cards for folks who have made outstanding efforts on behalf of the church. Meg noted that special thanks are due Brian Moore, Sharon Moore, Shannon Posern and Bear Qolezcue for their work involving the construction and renovations.

**Status:** Completed

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### 3.2. Moment with Meg

The Senior Minister discussed several ongoing day-to-day aspects of church life and updated the board that construction is complete with the exception of a few temporary fixtures that will be replaced when the permanent fixtures come in. She said that the church expects to receive the final certificate of occupancy soon.

The Senior Minister reported that she will be on vacation and study leave and out of town during the month of July.

**Status:** Completed

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### 3.3. Paradox Players

This was discussed within the items noted above.

**Status:** Completed

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## 4. Monitoring our Progress

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#### 4.1. Policy Compliance

Due to just having come out of the annual retreat, some of the board members present had not had the opportunity to thoroughly review the monitoring reports that had been submitted for the meeting. The members present agree to review them and, if necessary, they could be discussed at the net meeting if requested.

The Minister for Program Development provided an update on the progress that our contract bookkeeping has made with accounting and financial reporting for the church. The Treasurer requested that, if possible, a quarterly comparison of profit and loss year to date to the same period in the prior year be provided.

**Status:** Completed

- 2.8 Communication and Support of the Board rev 06-2019.pdf
  - 4.0 Board-Executive Relationship - June 2019.pdf
  - financialsmarch2019.pdf
  - Program Development Report May 2019.pdf
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#### 4.2. Retreat feedback and discussion

- What was most useful?
- What do you wish we had covered in more detail?
- What was one ah-ha moment for you?
- What was one oh-no moment for you?

The members present discussed the recently completed retreat. In general, all felt that the retreat had been well-facilitated and had been excellent and quite useful.

Board members made the following suggestions for future retreats:

- Especially with new members coming on, have a more extensive (or even several) get to know each activities/ice breakers.
- Possibly provide more extensive policy-based governance training before the actual retreat.
- Schedule explicit break times for the Friday evening of the retreat.

The board took a few moments to engage in a getting to know one another exercise. Much hilarity and social bonding ensued.

**Status:** Completed

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### 5. Adjourn

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#### 5.1. Action Items and fill roles for next meeting

Let's review the action items from this meeting and assign roles for:

- Readings
- Timekeeper
- Process Evaluator
- Snacks

Readings: Gay

Timekeeper: Nesan

Process Evaluator: Elias

Snacks: Sadie

Facilitator for Book Discussion: Leo

Order the Books for Discussion: Chris

Look into Setting up an Online Calendar: Elias

**Status:** Completed

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## 5.2. Process Evaluation

Matt Kressin reviewed the process evaluation form and noted that he had recorded satisfactory performance for all items included in it.

**Status:** Completed

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## 5.3. Extinguishing the Chalice and Closing Words

**Status:** Completed

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