



MEETING MINUTES - First UU Austin Board of Trustees

Meeting

Date	Tuesday, August 15, 2023
Started	6:30 PM
Ended	8:30 PM (CST)
Location	First UU Church of Austin 4700 Grover Ave Room 13 Austin, TX 78756
Purpose	Regular scheduled meeting
Chaired by	Vic Cornell
Recorder	Gretchen Riehl

Attendance

Present:	Donna Carpenter, Vic Cornell, Suzette Emberton, Russell Holley-Hurt, Joseph Hunt, Chris Jimmerson, Mateo Kresha, Rev. Michelle LaGrave, Evan Mahony they/them, Shannon Posern, Kelly Raley, Dave Riehl, Gretchen Riehl, Nathan Walther
Absent:	Jonalu Johnstone, Jonalu Johnstone, Nesan Lawrence, Sasha Lorenzo, Kelly Stokes, Erin Walter

Minutes

1. Coming Back into Covenant

1.1. Chalice Lighting and Opening Words

Rev. Chris will bring opening & closing words

Chris read the opening words.

Due date:

Status: Completed

1.2. Approve Agenda

- Questions re: releasing restricted funds
- 2024 Budget

Agenda approved.

Status: Completed

2. Monitoring our Progress

2.1. 2024 Budget

Proposed 2024 budget attached.

The budget was discussed. Shannon clarified some line items, described techniques she was looking at to increase rental revenue, and responded to questions. The board accepted the budget by acclamation. It will be presented to

the congregation at the December meeting.

Status: Completed

Documents

- Proposed 2024 Budget sp.pdf
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2.2. Releasing restricted funds

Two primary options...

- We release just enough from the Church Savings Fund to cover 1 year of the loan.
- This will do nothing other than covering the loan for 2024. It will not significantly increase the 2024 budget.
- This will require a 2/3 vote by the congregation.
- We completely shut down the Church Savings Fund and move all that money into the general operating funds (which would still leave our Permanent Endowment Fund).
- That option would give us enough money to bring staff up to UUA recommended payroll levels, and deal with some of the deferred maintenance needs.
- Of course that would also mean that next year we won't have any backup money!
- This will require TWO 2/3 votes by the congregation; one to change the bylaws (below) and one to release the funds.

Vic presented the options for releasing the restricted funds. Discussion and questions ensued. The board voted to hold a special congregational meeting on September 24 to hold a vote to release enough restricted funds to cover the loan payment for the 2024 fiscal year.

Status: Completed

2.3. Transition Committee Report

A report from the transition committee to the board.

Donna reported on the transition committee meeting with Rev. Michelle. The committee is concerned about effective communication and have discussed how to better connect with the congregation.

They also are recommending a non-board transition committee made up of six trusted congregants who are not on the board or the ministerial search committee or spouses of those members. This committee would work with Rev. Michelle.

They also discussed the monitoring process and how to begin the discussion of co-lead ministers. Chris expressed support for the idea of a co-lead ministry. More discussion ensued.

Status: Completed

3. Adjourn

3.1. Action Items

Action items from this meeting:

- 1. Vic will draft an email message regarding the town hall and special congregational meeting to release funds to cover 1 year of loan payment.
 2. Michelle will send the various ministerial scenarios to the board.
 3. Donna will request nominations for the non-board transitions committee. She will also share the google doc with current transitions team.



4. Kelly will create a flow chart for the ministerial search for Howson Hall

Status: Completed

3.2. Extinguishing the Chalice and Closing Words

Rev. Chris will bring opening & closing words

Chris read the closing and Vic extinguished the chalice.

Status: Completed
