

MEETING MINUTES - First UU Austin Board of Trustees

Meeting

Date	Tuesday, October 17, 2023
Started	6:30 PM
Ended	8:30 PM (CST)
Location	Zoom - https://zoom.us/my/firstuuaustin (password = 512452) Zoom ID: 940 671 9275 Dial in number: (346) 248-7799 or (669) 900-6833
Purpose	Regular scheduled meeting
Chaired by	Gretchen Riehl
Recorder	Dave Riehl

Attendance

Present:	Donna Carpenter, Russell Holley-Hurt, Chris Jimmerson, Pam Knight, Mateo Kresha, Rev. Michelle LaGrave, Evan Mahony they/them, Shannon Posern, Kelly Raley, Dave Riehl, Gretchen Riehl, Nathan Walther
Regrets:	Suzette Emberton, Joseph Hunt, Nesan Lawrence, Sasha Lorenzo, Kelly Stokes
Invited guests:	Karen Neeley, Mani Subramanian

Minutes

1. Coming Back into Covenant

1.1. Chalice Lighting and Opening Words

Gretchen read opening words and lit the chalice.

Status: Completed

1.2. Reading of Board Covenant

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

- Treat our time together and board commitments 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.

We read the covenant together.

Status: Completed

1.3. Confirm Timekeeper and Process Evaluator

Time-keeper - Joseph

Process Evaluator - Suzette

Book Discussion leader - Evan

We need to elect a secretary to keep minutes.

Welcome to Pam Knight, our newest board member

Kelly served as Time Keeper in Joseph's absence (Covid).

After discussion, Dave Riehl volunteered to serve as Secretary for the balance of the Church year. He was voted in by acclamation.

Our newest member, Pam Knight, was voted in. Kelly moved and Donna seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Status: Completed

1.4. Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda

Status: Completed

Documents

- Minutes-2023-09-19-v1.pdf
 - August 2023 Board Financial Report.pdf
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2. Connecting with our Moral Ownership

2.1. Visitor's Forum

Mani Subramanian and Karen Neeley will present where the capital campaign is to date.

Mani Subramanian, with his wife Ruth present, presented the status of the Capital Campaign. Karen was unable to attend. The initial "silent campaign" of large potential donor is just getting underway.

Status: Completed

2.2. Recognition of Church Volunteers and Staff

Status: Deferred until 11/21/2023

2.3. Moment with Rev.Chris

Reverend Chris announced his appointment to the Board of Meadville Lombard Seminary. Congratulations to Reverend Chris!

Chris reminded us of his upcoming Candidating Week, and invited the Board to attend as many sessions as possible.

Status: Completed

2.4. Moment with Rev. Michelle

Reverend Michelle discussed her ongoing activities, now including an accessibility study of the Church. She will concentrate on worship, communications and technology. She will start with the Worship Service.

Reverend Michelle emphasized that, if the question comes up, this search, even though an inside candidate, is like any normal candidating week.

She also mentioned Ukrainian refugees as a possible upcoming issue.

Status: Completed

3. Monitoring our Progress

3.1. Appoint Pam Knight to Board of Trustees

Due date:

Status: Completed

3.2. Monitoring 1.4.7 and 1.4.8

We discussed the evolving role FUUCA plays in the regional churches. The Board strongly supports these efforts, outlined in 1.4.7. The report 1.4.8 has strong implications for the health of the Congregation.

Due date:

Status: Completed

Documents

- 1.4.7 monitoring report 2023.pdf
 - 1.4.8 monitoring report 2023.pdf
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3.3. Transitions Committee Report

Update on ministerial search and congregational meeting preparations.

We discussed the special Congregational Meeting for the vote on Reverend Chris's call. It was decided that there will be no discussion of Rev Chris at the meeting. It would not be fair to him, as he would not be present. The time for frank discussion about and with Rev Chris is during Candidating Week.

Status: Completed

3.4. Linkage Committee Report

Update on co-lead ministry communications

We highlighted the need to prepare the Congregation for the decision to change the Bylaws allowing for the possibility of a Co-Ministry team in place of one Senior Minister. Dave Riehl is marking up the Bylaws and proposing language for the Resolution, to be prepared for the pre-Congregational meeting in November.

Status: Completed

3.5. Monitoring Committee Report

Status: Completed

Documents

- MonitoringCommitteeCommentsonEndsInterpretation1_4_2.pdf
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3.6. Policy Committee Report

Update on bylaws changes for December meeting

See Section 3.4. A Bylaws markup and proposed wording for the Congregational Meeting vote on a possible Co-Ministry team as an alternate to the Senior Minister as Executive is underway. It will be aired at the pre-Congregational meeting in November.

Status: Completed

3.7. Update on pledge drive

Receive an update from Shannon regarding the current pledge drive.

Status: Completed

4. Learning & Creating the Future

4.1. Board Book Discussion

Status: Completed

5. Adjourn

5.1. Action Items and Announcements

Let's review the action items from this meeting:

Russell - email on roles for the special Congregational Meeting for Chris's vote.

Dave - circulate markup for proposed Bylaws change.

Gretchen - pulpit announcement about the vote, clarifying what we will be voting on.

All - attend, if you can, Chris's candidating meetings.

The next Congregational is in December, with the pre-Congregational meeting on Sunday, Nov. 19. (This is before our next Board meeting, on Nov. 23.)

Status: Completed

5.2. Assign Roles for Next Meeting

Assign roles for:

- Readings
- Timekeeper
- Process Evaluator
- Book discussion

Readings - Evan

Timekeeper - Nathan

Process Evaluator - Kelly

Instead of a book discussion, there will be a discussion on the Congregational Survey.

Status: Completed

5.3. Process Evaluation

The process was satisfactory. Suzette was experiencing technical problems with Zoom during some of the meeting. Russell assisted in relaying information.

Status: Completed

Documents

- Board process review form.docx
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5.4. Extinguishing the Chalice and Closing Words

Status: Completed
