



Board of Trustees Combined Study Session and Business Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2023 - 6:30 to 8:30 PM via Zoom

Present: Becky Densmore, Jody Hanger, Jenny Hunt, Joe Finnerty, Karen Bush, Adelaide Aime, Steve Herzog, Karen Folk

Not present: Penné Beckett

Meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

WELCOME/CHALICE LIGHTING

Rev. KB offered the following reading:

To be a Unitarian Universalist means we'll never be done with the work:

the work of telling the truth about oppression

the work of resisting any laws, policies, or practices that deny anyone their humanity

the work of stubbornly seeking out the spark of the divine each other, no matter what

the work of creating heaven on earth

To be a Unitarian Universalist also means we're not alone in the work:

we are not alone because of our promises to love one another

we are not alone because we are companions on the journey

we grow ourselves into allies,

helping one another get free —

because none of us is truly free until we are all free.

The BOT also shared their fellow Board members' superpowers!

All Board members read the covenant together.

- Resource: [22-23 BoT SuperPowers](#)
- Resource: [2022-2023 Covenant](#)

NEW BUSINESS

● CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA:

- Action/Discussion: The Board of Trustees has responsibility for approving the agenda for the Annual Meeting. During this special meeting duly shared in the eNews with the congregation, we will approve our Annual Meeting Agenda. This will ensure we maintain timelines to adhere to our congregational documentation.

MOTION: I move to approve the Annual Meeting Agenda as linked below.

- [Resource: Annual Meeting Agenda](#)

Folk moved to accept the motion as written; Finnerty seconded.

Discussion around motion:

- Aime indicated that Agenda item VIII may be more controversial than we think; some people would like to use that money for current purposes; where is the best placement on the agenda?

MOTION: I move that the Board of Trustees enter into Executive Session.

Finnerty made motion; Hunt seconded.

All present voted to enter Executive Session.



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Executive Session started at 7:08 p.m.

MOTION: I move to leave Executive Session.

Hunt moved to end the Executive Session; Folk seconded.

All present voted to end Executive Session - motion passed.

Executive Session ended at 7:24 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

- CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA (cont'd)

Discussion around motion (cont'd):

- Densmore will be prepared to address remarks
- Hanger will give Gail Schiesser (Moderator) a heads up
- Densmore - no one from SAC has brought forward any requests
- Densmore and Hunt will make sure that the annual meeting announcement (particularly that it will be in person) will be in the Order of Service, Community Matters, enews
- Rev. KB suggested that an announcement come directly from the pulpit as well
- Finnerty asked if we needed to have remarks from the Minister
- Hunt - it is energizing to see and hear from a minister at the annual meeting; Rev. Sally could be really

The motion to accept the agenda for the Annual Meeting carried unanimously by those present.

- BUDGET CONVERSATION
 - Action/Discussion: A question is before us on what we should do with the remainder from the Search Team Funds--an amount of \$4,000. The Treasurer is recommending we use the \$4,000 for repairs and spruce-up the new Lead Minister/Head of Staff office. The bathroom flooring in there needs to be replaced, and it would be nice to paint before she arrives. Also, there is a need for different seating and furniture as it's pretty dated and uncomfortable. It is easiest and most efficient to get these items completed before the new Lead Minister arrives. The Executive Committee members have expressed support and interest in this plan.

MOTION: I move the church use the excess \$4000 from the settled search process to be repurposed and used to repair and refresh the Lead Minister's office and office furniture.

- Resource: [\(DRAFT\) 23-24 Budget](#)

Discussion around motion:

- Aime - the Settled Search team was left with about \$4,000 from their \$10,000 budget; no time to ask the Councils about their budget priorities because it is so late in the budget approval process.
- Aime - two ideas about what to do with money
 - the money came out of sabbatical setaside - we could put it back there or,
 - do some freshening up of the Lead Minister's Office
 - it needs new paint, flooring, seating, desk - make it as welcoming as possible for Beth (with her input).
- Hunt - has optimism that we can raise funds for sabbatical later, let's jump at this opportunity



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- Aime - sabbatical fund is fully funded for where we are in the cycle
- Hanger - will Rev. Sally feel left out?
 - Aime - she doesn't want any changes to her office,
 - KB - she loves her office

Folk moved to accept the motion as written; Finnerty seconded.

The motion to use the remaining search funds for refreshing the Lead Minister's Office passed unanimously by those present.

● INTERIM MINISTRY REPORT

- Action/Discussion: The BoT requested Rev. KB to provide a written report summarizing her time with us as well as sharing any insights from her 35+ ministry expertise for ways in which UUCUC may grow.

MOTION: I move to accept the Lead Minister's General Report hyperlinked below in 'Resources.'

- Resource: [Interim Lead Minister Report](#)
- Resource: [Interim Lead Minister Report v2.0](#)

Hunt moved to accept the motion as written; Aime seconded.

Discussion around motion:

- Aime - thank you for a very useful and impactful document and the thought and care that went into it;
- Folk agreed - appreciate your cultural observations about our congregation; objective view, what you've learned, so grateful for your wise counsel
- KB - not a toxic church with relationships, wanted to give encouragement but also ways to grow - recommendations given in love
- Hunt - appreciate the cultural part that KB brought out, where we fall short of where we proclaim to be - thank you for that, going to nudge us into our future with Beth, to be the best we can be,
 - how do we look at Strategic Plan given these comments? You have given us a guide to the future, thank you for being honest with us
- KB - you need people of other social, racial strata - the church cannot grow without deep relationship with other
- Densmore - highlighted perfectionism section, how egos get in the way of spiritual growth
- Hunt - sparks thinking about why can't we get more people involved in leadership positions - is perfectionism setting up roadblocks?

The motion to accept the Interim Lead Minister's report passed unanimously by those present.

Further discussion:

- Densmore - What should we do with this document? Send it through Council Chairs?
- Rev. KB - this document is just for the BOT and Beth - this is not the letter she would send to the church; considers this document a working guide for BOT and whatever staff would find it useful.
- Folk - would be good to use at Board retreat and for discussion in other ways
- Hunt - in agreement, use it for new minister start up, then we can see to how to frame it to put before Council of Shared Leadership, so close to summer doesn't want anyone to have negative feelings about it, keep it close for now.
- Densmore - look to the new Board to share with Beth
- Rev. KB - very last evening meeting! She feels protective of Beth; she's in good hands with the Board.



UU Church of Urbana-Champaign

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- Denmore - it was an honor to have you, Rev. KB!

Meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.