

# UUFC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## MINUTES FOR JUNE 12, 2017

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Present: Carl English-Young, John Bailey, Kathy Kopczynski, Joan Rose, Virginia Shapiro, Elona Meyer  
New Board members: Uta Hussong-Christian, Jen Akeroyd, Marcia Shaw, Craig Olbrich  
Staff: Jill McAllister, Elizabeth Sollie, Jamie Petts  
Guests: Chris Bentley (Building Design Team Chair)  
Absent: Kyle Jansson, Linda Hardison, Peter Sanford, Kelley Kendall

### Consent Agenda

John moved that consent items be approved, Kathy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### Announcements, Correspondence, and other Communication

Carl noted that the sale of the house to CZC remains in progress. Based on initial responses from the City, the CZC re-submitted their application to the City.

### Review of Board Activity This Past Year

Carl asked trustees to note three Board activities/actions that stood out in our minds and then post them as examples as fiduciary, strategic, or generative. The Board is standing at a “generative cliff,” with an opportunity to restructure how we approach our work as a Board.

A brief discussion followed, after which we examined our Board Goals for this year, identifying those fully addressed and those with further work needed:

- **Goal # 1, Addressing the Building Enhancement Project.** The work on the Capital Campaign for our BEP was a time-consuming priority. Board goals related to the BEP were largely met. The Board identified the need to enhance communication strategies and expand opportunities for congregants to be heard.
- **Goal # 2, Addressing our congregation’s ability to address its mission.** Council work was restructured, with support for greater initiative for action at the council level, which the Board supported, agreeing that decisions could be made at the council level. Leadership supper meetings continued. A well-attended Justice Forum provided a comprehensive view of current justice work and contact information for those wishing to participate. Our COM noted that the *Participants’ Guide to UUFC* is nearly complete.

The Board concurs that work on Bylaws and policies would be better addressed in the coming year, with input from councils when policies could affect their work.

- **2017-18 Future Goals.** We should make the revision of Bylaws and policies a priority. Policies need to be in alignment with our practices. The Board, with input from applicable councils and task forces, should establish church-wide goals for climate and racial justice.

### Opportunities to Review the Building Enhancement Project Conceptual Plan

Carl asked Chris Bentley, BDT chair, to assist the Board in discussing opportunities for congregants to be heard as we move from the “conceptual” design to an actual building design plan. Feedback from congregants should come *after* we have information from structural engineers and a fuller idea of the work to be done and the cost options. At that point, the possible scope for the BEP will be better understood. The actual size will depend in part on funds remaining when the engineer’s analyses, essential repairs and code upgrades are addressed. Because the ultimate design and the determination of numerous parameters will require the engineer’s reports, it was suggested that we have the engineers’ work scheduled as soon as possible.

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#### Revision of Policy 3.11, Justice Loan Fund

We briefly reviewed and discussed the revised policy. With a minor change, Elona moved that the policy be approved; Joan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Because State credits for solar panel installation are not likely to continue much past the coming year, donations made with the intention for supporting solar panel installations through Seeds for the Sol will need to be redirected back to UUFC at some point. In the meantime, we can choose to renew loans to Seed for the Sol. Virginia so moved, John seconded them motion, which carried unanimously.

#### Adjustment to FY2018 Budget

The Business Manager needs to track and disperse Capital funds in addition to her current responsibilities. This moves the BM role from ½ FTE to 2/3 FTE. John moved to approve the \$4,967 increase; Virginia seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Joan Rose will re-assess budgetary allocations in light of the increase.

#### Minutes of the Annual Meeting (and discussion)

A lively discussion addressing strategies we might try for increased engagement from congregants and a more positive outcome from our Annual Meeting resulted in the following observations and suggestions:

- We were able to accomplish to needed decisions (votes) on the 2 budgets and the 6 priorities for the BEP (with an amendment for further input on the BEP design). However, we noted the annual meeting is no longer an appropriate format for debating ideas. We are too large to run an annual meeting as though it were a New England Town meeting. A more successful approach might mean:
  - Celebrating the year, highlighting our accomplishments. This would have allowed us to note that we have overwhelming support for our BEP, with \$1.2 million in pledges. We were not at this point “voting” on whether to proceed with the project. In addition, by focusing on the accomplishments in our justice work, underscores that our BEP *serves* our mission—it is not our mission.
  - Featuring a key speaker and having a moderator run the meeting. (This was also suggested at the Leadership Meeting, along with support for celebrating the year.)
  - With a change in Bylaws, voting by mail, instead of our Annual Meeting, allowing everyone to participate. Currently, if you are unable to come to the Annual Meeting, you are unable to vote.
  - Create a voter’s guide, with pros and cons, keeping it short, to inform congregants as they vote.
- Consider a variety of formats for congregants to share and hear others’ viewpoints on issues of interest.
  - For example, schedule **town halls** addressing racial justice and climate justice. This format might also be used to allow interested congregants to air their views concerning what it means to be a UUFC member, since this involves possibly controversial bylaws.
  - Create a “Soap Box” event for people to air views on controversial topics.
  - If we decide to feature opposing views in a large meeting setting, have the moderator set time limits (2 or 3 minute statements) with two mikes. This might be considered for an annual meeting or for town halls.
- Create a task force on governance. Virginia volunteered to serve, with emphasis on community-building.
- Make 2017-18 a year to experiment with formats for increasing engagement and communication.

Kathy noted that she might need to make a minor change to the Annual Meeting minutes concerning the selection of P and VP.

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#### **Discussion of Structure of Board Leadership**

Questions arose at the annual meeting, because the nominating committee was not able to find people willing to take on the roles of President and Vice President of the Board. Questions at the meeting included: are there a maximum number of trustees? Must a Pres and VP be named, or could the Board decide on who has which roles/responsibilities?

Marcia Shaw and Craig Olbrich agreed to serve in the executive roles initially and for the year, with a flexible view toward any changes the Board wishes to pursue. A change in Bylaws to permit flexibility would better support our efforts.

Carl suggested that Board leadership could be on the July agenda. Jill noted that other congregations have used many other approaches: sharing leadership; dividing responsibilities so that the president does not carry such a heavy load; having a Board moderator; and having the Board make the decisions regarding their leadership, rather than having president and VP voted on by the congregation.

Marcia and Craig will develop the agenda for our July meeting which is scheduled for July 10<sup>th</sup>. Carl will become our Past President as of our July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Volunteers were elicited for snacks (Uta and Elona).

Craig suggested that we share minutes and Board Packet information using Google Drive. Jamie offered to provide support to anyone unfamiliar with Google Drive.

The meeting was adjourned.