

UUFC  
Board Meeting Minutes | July 21, 2020

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7:00pm - Zoom

Present: Darius Adams, Kedo Baye, Scott Bruslind, Herky Gottfried, Steve Strauss, Sheryl Stuart

Absent: Anna Sontag

Staff: Jill McAllister, Jamie Petts

Guests: None

Minutes taken by: Herky Gottfried

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**1. Meeting opening**

- a. Meeting opened by Steve Strauss at 7:01 pm
  - b. Chalice lit by Scott Bruslind
  - c. Steve Strauss gave a reading from John Lewis
  - d. We all did a brief checkin on what's on our minds
2. Brief discussion: [Shikha comment](#) on UU-Discuss, GA voting, and how we discuss differences in thought re. BLM and the appropriate forums to do that in at UUFC
- a. Jill explained the background of the “gadfly” controversy within the UUA
  - b. UU-Discuss has become quite active, including some “oversharing” and very long messages.
  - c. The current controversy is focused on anti-racism work, which has been pushed heavily by the UUA over the past few years. The majority of UU ministers, but not all, are in support of this. This discussion is being framed by some as a freedom of speech discussion.
  - d. We at UUFC are in the middle of two fronts. The Salem congregation is supportive of the minister from Spokane who wrote the Gadfly papers. The Eugene congregation has come out in public opposition to this book.
  - e. There are differences of opinion. There are also people's lives at stake.
  - f. UU-Discuss is an unmoderated chat room. We don't have any policies around its use. This is currently the only place we have in the fellowship to have raw discussion.
  - g. Jill believes this discussion has gone too far and should move into a moderated format. We should have some ground rules for discussion in general.
  - h. The EDI team has recently been starting to discuss this as well, and will be meeting on Thursday to discuss next steps.

UUFC  
Board Meeting Minutes | July 21, 2020

- i. Jill and Jamie are planning to create a new forum with some ground rules. The board could talk about whether we want some policies about the nature of appropriate conversation on UU-Discuss.
  - j. The board discussed whether UU-Discuss should remain an unmoderated forum. Suggestion to write something about the purpose of UU-Discuss; also general support for leaving the forum open for general discussion, but guidelines would be helpful.
  - k. **Jill plans to write to UU-Discuss stating her belief that this discussion has overstepped appropriate boundaries and offering suggestions for guidelines.**
  - l. **Steve will write an article (assisted by Scott) about the purpose of UU-Announce (and UU-Discuss).**
  - m. Kari Gottfried stated that the issue is are we going to back down from white people who move away from the center, or are we going to lose people of color who do not feel welcome here.
3. Consent agenda (10 min)
- a. [Treasurer's Report](#)
  - b. Financial docs supporting treasurer's report
    - i. [UUFC Balance Sheet](#)
    - ii. [UUFC Profit-Loss](#)
    - iii. [Building Expansion Balance Sheet](#)
    - iv. [Building Expansion Profit-Loss](#)
  - c. [July Minister's Report](#)
  - d. June [Board meeting minutes](#)

Herky will provide a more in-depth review of the annual budget when we have a financial review (tentatively scheduled for 7PM August 4). Darius will work to get a count of donors.

We discussed the Letter of Agreement for Ministry. This had not been reviewed for approximately 5 years. The committee on ministry would like to present the minister's review at next month's board meeting.

There was a discussion about the June board meeting minutes, particular around the discussion about outside activities during COVID. We are *not* supporting any activities at UUFC at this time.

UUFC  
Board Meeting Minutes | July 21, 2020

**The consent agenda was approved as written, with the above discussion.**

4. Discussion and Action: Proposal and [policy](#) (see section 6.3) for Bob Ozretich [fund guidelines](#) - Scott (10 min)
  - a. There was a question about the 13 month figure for determining
  - b. There was a question about who is eligible to apply for the scholarship. Is it limited to “conventional” college students? Oregon residents? Anyone in the US? Kedo will discuss these questions with Russ and come up with an updated proposal for next month
  - c. The board agrees with the general policy and fund guidelines, with the caveat that additional wordsmithing is required.**
  
5. Discussion and Action: Request from Immigrant/Refugee Task Force, with supporting docs ([request to house asylum seekers](#) and [The family’s story](#) (10 min). Original sanctuary resolution [here](#).
  - a. There is uncertainty whether this family will actually be able to make it to Corvallis; Nancy Kyle has agreed to sponsor them, and Jill is working on helping them find a lawyer.
  - b. The board agrees that this proposal is aligned with our sanctuary resolution and we approve this request.**
  
6. Website update - Jamie (5 min)
  - a. The website has been updated, with a lot of edits in the past two weeks. Some areas are still missing content, which will be added soon. Jamie will be updating the file cabinet to store key files.
  - b. Jamie would like individual headshot photos of all of the board to put on the web site. Please send your photo to Jamie!**
  - c. The policies work also contains some procedures and forms (at the back of the document). Jamie will work on converting these to a procedure manual.
  
7. Policies update – Brief process revisit. Darius has joined the policy revision team of the BOD and will discuss some ideas he and Jill have discussed about planning, and how we might update the [prior policy](#), which we had agreed to tentatively delete at the last BOD meeting (10 min)
  - a. Policy revision proposal:  
Drop [1.9, Senior Hub](#) as inactive.

UUFC  
Board Meeting Minutes | July 21, 2020

Review of [3.4 Criteria for working with children and youth](#). (former 6.5)

- b. We approve the initial reading of the policy revision proposals. They will be placed on the consent agenda for next meeting after the individual edits are applied.
  - c. Darius led a discussion on planning: what kind and how much planning do we want to do as a board, given the fellowship that has entrusted us with these roles, and its mission and goals?
    - i. Plans can focus us, which may cause us to miss opportunities, but also allows to concentrate on the most important things.
    - ii. As we plan, we should do so through two lenses: antiracism and climate justice
    - iii. Suggestion to focus some of the August meeting on planning for the year - should start from our beginning priorities from the retreat
      - In the past we have had a tickler file to remind us when we should address certain items
      - The building project will be (re)starting soon; we will need to do some planning around this.
    - iv. Darius to come up with a proposal for how we might add a planning topic to the agenda for the August meeting; tie this to the report from the committee on ministry and potential congregational review. We discussed the idea of having a congregational survey to get a better idea of how they feel on various important topics, and how we are doing in meeting their needs.
    - v. Suggestion that we update the tickler to make it something we review at each meeting.
8. Announcements, and reminders (5 min)
- a. Jill discussed Ann Mbake's departure from the board
  - b. We discussed Slack. Herky will do some cleanup work on our existing Slack channel, and can provide some basic training/introduction when we discuss the financials in early August.
9. Meeting adjourned at 8:49PM.