

First Unitarian Society Board of Trustees Agenda

Date and Time: November 20, 2019 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Location: FUS, Gaebler Living Room

Attendees:

Trustees:

- Terri Pepper, President (Governance Committee)
- John McGevena, Secretary
- Dorit Bergen
- Thomas Dulmage (Personnel Committee)
- Mike Lienau
- Rebecca Paradiso de Sayu
- Creal Zearing (Finance Committee)

Youth Advisors:

- Sonia Grade
- ~~Elinor Hill-Gorman~~

Clergy and Staff:

- Doug Wadkins
- Kelly Crocker
- Monica Nolan
- Carin Bringelson

Guests:

None

Materials:

- Agenda, September minutes, Staff and Task Force reports, September parish meeting open question responses

Current Vision of Ministry:

- Within us, enhance opportunities for spiritual, intellectual, and personal growth
- Among us, nurture members in all stages of life and commit to build deeper connections
- Beyond us, embody our UU principles in the larger community as we engage in outreach, service, advocacy, and activism

INTRODUCTIONS AND OVERVIEW

- Opening reading and chalice lighting
- Check in: For our check in Terri suggested we answer the following questions of how we see FUS. These are the questions we are asking small groups and the large congregation.
 - What is the heart of FUS for you? Board members gave their responses in simple terms. Such as hot tea at service, community- bring there for our people. Reaching out to struggling members in helping with specific concrete tasks. People, interactions, friendships. Small groups. The experience of being an authentic community kindness/loving support also having hard conversations. The fun stuff, Art Fair, Music Sunday, people interactions the flow of the church year.
 - What does it look like when this congregation is living from this place?
- Review of agenda

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes from October board meeting:
- Committee and Task Force Reports:
 - Nominations Committee (no)
 - Governance Committee (no)
 - Finance Committee (yes)
 - Personnel Committee (no)
 - Ministerial Transition Task Force (no)
 - Sanctuary Task Force (no)
- Staff (yes)

DISCUSSION

- The Board approved the minutes from the October meeting.
- Finance Report Q&A: Monica reported on the financial activities condensed for the period July to September 2019. The weekly offering may be off possible explanations are people don't carry cash or use checks as much anymore.

- Stewardship Consultant – reflection on weekend with Rev. Vail Weller, UUA Congregational Giving Director. The board conducted a very active discussion on this subject. It was very controversial, especially the idea of an aspirational 5% of families income. Carin pointed out a useful tool in UUA.org called the Fair Share Giving.

- Open question – next steps

In what way could we increase the sense of abundance here at FUS? Connecting across groups, meaningful conversations/small groups, diversity/inclusion. Terri mentions a number of other points that were mentioned including parking. Most comments were about membership. It was suggested that a sub-committee be formed to get additional feedback on the open question during the year. Tom, Rebecca and Creal and our youth advisor Elinor will write their own charter.

BREAK

- Ministerial Research Task Force
- Rev. Kelly's perspective and discernment process
- Introduction to Task Force study materials

Terri gave an overview of the Ministerial Research Task Force and the material that it collected on seven UU congregations across the country. The congregations vary in size, but all have multiple ministers on staff, with configurations on a spectrum from very hierarchical to intentionally collaborative. The documents are lengthy, providing detail not just about the ministerial configurations and how they share authority, but about the context of each congregation. The Board's next step will be to get feedback from the FUS members by hosting listening sessions on the information gleaned from the studied congregations. The report of the task force and congregational feedback will ultimately inform the Board's charge to the search team. The task force report is being re-formatted for easier reading and will be available for review prior to our December meeting.

Kelly shared with the Board about her discernment process and vision for her future ministry at FUS.