



Fall Virtual Parish Meeting Agenda

First Unitarian Society's Zoom account
October 24, 2021 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm

- I. Opening, Rev. Kelly Crocker
- II. Welcome & Agenda Review, Alyssa Ryanjoy
- III. Approve Minutes from last Parish Meeting on June 13, 2021
- IV. Nominations

Motion: The Board of Trustees recommends that Ava Rochester and Finn Hill-Gorman be approved as youth advisory members of the FUS's Board of Trustees for one-year terms.

- V. Open Question: **What are the ways we can share ministry?**
- VI. Closing, Rev. Kelly Asprooth-Jackson

Handouts

- Minutes from June 13, 2021 Parish Meeting
- Bios for the Nominees
- Shared Ministry article <https://www.brazos-uu.org/post/shared-ministry-what-it-is-and-isn-t-by-gaye-webb-chair-of-committee-on-ministry>

Spring Parish Meeting - Agenda

June 13, 2021 11:30 pm to 1:00 pm

Meeting ID: 849 8114 2267 Passcode: 363979

Dial by your location: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84981142267?pwd=OXZ4QWFBL3dpNHN5KzJCRG9wd0ZXQT09>

I. Opening - Rev. Kelly Crocker

II. Agenda Review & Adopting Rules of Procedure - Terri Pepper

III. Approve Minutes from last Parish Meeting on February 21, 2021 and May 2, 2021

Motion: Move to accept Parish Meeting minutes.

The motion was seconded by Nancy Vedder-Shults and the vote to approve by the majority of the members present.

IV. Nomination of Board of Trustee and Foundation Board Members

Motion: Move that the following be approved as members of the Foundation's Board of Trustees for three-year terms: Connie Beam, Annette Hellmer, and David Kuenzi. The motion was seconded by Rob Savage and the vote was approved by the majority of the members present.

Motion: Move that the following be approved as members of the FUS Board of Trustees for three-year terms: Emily Cusic Putnam and Ann Schaffer. The motion was seconded by Gail Bliss and the vote was approved by the majority of the members present.

V. Approve 2021-2022 Budgets

Motion: Move to approve the 2021-2022 Annual Budget. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Barrett and the vote was approved by the majority of the members present.

VI. Healthy Congregation

VII. Relational Covenant Update

Motion: Move that the First Unitarian Society adopt the reviewed Relational Covenant. The motion was moved by Ann Schaffer and seconded by Becky Burns and the vote was approved by the majority of the members present.

VIII. Small Group Discussions about the Relational Covenant:

What are some ways that you personally can use the relational covenant as a tool for self-reflection at FUS and perhaps even in other aspects of your life?

As you reflect on the covenant, what one or two parts feel like they will be especially challenging for you? In other words, what one or two parts jump out as being growing edges for you?

IX. Closing - Rev. Kelly Crocker



Board of Trustees Youth Advisory Member Nominees

Ava Rochester is 17 years old and attends LaFollette High School. She has lived on the east side of Madison her entire life and have been attending FUS since she was a young child. Within the UU community she is a member of the teen choir and attends Camp Unistar on a yearly basis. Ava is very excited to be on the board!

Finn Hill-Gorman is a sixteen years old sophomore in high school. He has been attending FUS since he was just a wee thing, and has been enrolled in FUS' RE programs since he was six years old. Many of his older siblings preceed him as youth board members. He loves being outside, camping, hiking, and especially mountain biking. He also enjoys spending time with friends and learning new languages, including Mandarin and Arabic. Finn loves to travel and has a strong interest in social justice. He looks forward to supporting the good work FUS engages in regularly.

“Shared Ministry – What It Is and Isn’t”

by Gaye Webb

The other day I was talking with a friend of mine from Houston and the topic of “shared ministry” came up. She indicated that there was a discussion about “what it is and isn’t” at one of the groups at her UU congregation and asked me what I thought it was. My response: “It’s my guess that if you ask 10 UUs for the definition, you would have 10 different answers, maybe even 15!” She laughed and then said, “Seriously, what do you think?” After a moment or two of thought, I responded – “It’s when the minister, the lay leadership, and the congregational volunteers work collaboratively in covenant with mutual trust and support toward a common vision, a set of goals, and a legacy of this progressive faith for the congregation and the community at large.” She said, “Whew! That’s a mouthful.”

I went on to say that “It’s not when there are a lot of individual volunteers doing a lot of work.” I don’t mean to minimize the great work of individuals, but that’s not ‘shared ministry,’ in my opinion. The key part for me is “work collaboratively in *covenant with mutual trust and support toward a common vision, a set of goals, and a legacy.*” After all, our UU principles begin with the words “we ... covenant to affirm and promote” and our sources end with “we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.” Happily, she agreed.

Upon my return to Bryan, I “Googled” shared ministry to see how others might describe it; after all, I was interested in finding the other 10-15 UU opinions. It appears that at least one UU minister shares my opinion about what “shared ministry” isn’t – a lot of individual volunteers. In fact, he says that “individualism” is preventing us from growing. In the words of Rev. Fred Muir, minister of the UU Church of Annapolis: “...we [Unitarian Universalist Congregations] are being held back and stymied – really, we are being held captive – by a persistent, pervasive, disturbing, and disruptive commitment to *individualism that misguides our ability to engage the changing times.*”

The minister of the UU Congregation of Frederick, Maryland, the Rev. Dr. Carl Gregg, says in a recent blog (“Who’s in Charge Here?”: The Dance between Shared Ministry and Authority) shares that “shared ministry is about partnership – and *power-with instead of power-over.* ... *We are together in this work of transforming ourselves and of transforming the world.*”

At the “shared-ministry.net” website, I found three components of shared ministry:

1. Collaborative Working

Bishop Stephen Pickard, professor of Theology at Charles Sturt University, is concerned that our patterns of working in the church are not instinctively, habitually collaborative. He says that “Teamwork of shared ministry ... is the way a community flourishes even amidst the pain and conflict. It is no easy street, but it is the street upon which the church has to travel...”

2. Contextual Mission

Essential to Shared Ministry is a commitment to those outside the immediate church congregation. It should not be about evaluating the church’s activities and church development. It needs to be primarily about mission, examining the place of the church within its neighborhood ... how it is perceived by non-church goers and the partnerships it has or could develop with community groups. A responsive, mission-focused congregation must recognize that change is inevitable and thus must develop approaches to ministry that can help the members to cope with change, rather than seek to control it. Shared ministry offers a place to reflect and respond to rapid and discontinuous change as it gives a space for issues to be discussed collectively and where reactions to change can be evaluated and responded to.

3. Shared Learning

Shared ministry encourages others to offer their skills and experiences and take on new responsibilities. Learning presupposes setbacks, blocks, and even failures. Shared ministry seeks to make congregations a place where people can take risks and sometimes get things wrong. It is a process that is one of learning for clergy and laity, one that encourages the whole congregation to become involved in the learning and growth required of all of us.

In closing, I would ask that you reflect on our ministry here at UUCBV. Are we “working collaboratively in covenant with mutual trust and support toward a common vision and a set of goals, working toward a legacy of this progressive faith for the congregation and the community at large”? If not, what changes can we make to be in “shared ministry”?

Stop by the “CommUUnicate Table” during coffee hour on Sundays to share your ideas about “shared ministry” or any other topics that are on your mind.

Updated: Apr 9, 2020