

First Unitarian Society Board of Trustees Minutes

Date and Time: August 30, 2023 6:45 – 8:30 pm

Location: Courtyard AB and Zoom

PRESENT:

Trustees:

- Jenny Conroy, President
(Governance)
- Emily Cusic Putnam, Secretary
- Ann Schaffer
- Joy Stieglitz Gottschalk
- Chuck Evenson
- Emily Smith
- ~~Ed Zapala~~

Youth Advisors:

- Zizi Brandt
- ~~Mira Roffers~~
- Mason Shadle

Clergy and Staff:

- Kelly Crocker
- Monica Nolan
- Kelly Weisman Asprooth-Jackson

MATERIALS:

- Agenda
- June Meeting Minutes
- Leadership Report
- Strategic Focus Areas 23-24
- Church Calendar

Vision: The vision of First Unitarian Society is to be a spiritual community of belonging. We will transform ourselves and society through the practices of radical welcome, deep listening, and compassionate, authentic connection. We envision a world fueled by love and justice.

Mission: At First Unitarian Society, we question boldly, listen humbly, grow spiritually, act courageously, and love unapologetically.

Vision of Ministry/Strategic Priorities

To make progress toward fulfilling our vision in 2023-2024, we prioritize:

1. Deepen our shared ministry by embracing the gifts of every person in the responsibility to care for each other and our community.
2. Cultivate authentic relationships as allies and partners in our community and denomination.
3. Mobilize to dismantle racism and other forms of systemic oppression to create justice, peace, and wholeness in our world.

AGENDA ITEM	<u>KEY:</u> Discussion/MOTION/Action
OVERVIEW	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Roles 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Timekeeper: Ann ○ Process observer: Joy ○ Virtual Liaison: Emily ● Review of agenda 	
CONSENT AGENDA	
Minutes from June board meeting	CONSENT AGENDA ADOPTED.
Leadership Team Report	
DISCUSSION	
2023-2024 Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2023 Church Calendar ● Committees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Governance - Jenny ○ Finance - ○ Personnel - ○ Nominations - Alyssa ○ Foundation - 	7:10-7:25 Welcome back event on Sept 8, 5-6:30 Board members are encouraged to welcome/greet and help clean up. Contact Jenny if you're willing to serve as one of 3 open board liaisons.
Large Board Training Debrief	6 board members & co-senior ministers attended the training. Pre-work was valuable (Circle practice & Community of Communities). Mixed experience with breakouts.
Staff Goals	Kelly C reported on staff process for sharing and interest in collaborating on individual goals related to annual strategic goals.
Board Goals Discussion	Reviewed goals and revised for more detail and action items. Should leadership development goal rest with board? 1b. Jenny - inquire about sabbatical policies with large congregations board presidents group Emily - inquire about sabbatical policies with MA Region (David Pyle) 2e. KC & KAJ will provide dates for Article 2 discussion groups so board members can plan to attend. Consider congregation vote on Article II to inform delegates prior to GA. 3a. Governance Comm has completed revising policies based on equity review. Kelly C will send to board for review & adoption. Bylaws review next. 3b. ALL - Read "Centering" (book provided) intro & chap 1 for Sept board meeting discussion.

Process check-in	Included check-in with new board members.
Closing reading - Kelly A-J	Adjourned at 8:32.
For Next Meeting Wednesday, Sept 20, 6:30 - 8:30 PM	Proposed Agenda Items
Review action steps in bold in body of minutes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Open question practice. Budget shortfall & shared ministry? ● Next month - policy change recommendations from equity review. ● Centering reading ● Sign Up for meeting roles.

Submitted by Emily Cusic Putnam