

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia

Board of Trustees

Minutes of September 15, 2021 Meeting – FINAL, submitted by Secretary to Lis Turner with copy to Pat Mohr on October 20, 2021

Attendance

Pat Mohr (President*)

Deb Matherly (President-Elect*)

Beth Ann Rocheleau (Secretary*)

Ginny Verne (Treasurer*)

Rod Brown (*Ex Officio* as Past President)

Linda Brennison (*Ex Officio* as Finance Chair)

Jonathan White, Emilio Perez-Jorge, Caroline Eastman, Jean Capalbo (Trustees)

Absent: Tiffany Rushton

Dr. Pippin Whitaker, Rev. Stephen Robinson (Guests -- continuously, briefly or intermittently)

*Executive Committee

Call to Order: Pat Mohr called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Chalice Lighting: Emilio Perez-Jorge lit the chalice.

Covenant: Pat Mohr led the Board Covenant.

Additional Items for Agenda: none

Motion to Approve Agenda: approved

Motion to Approve Prior Meeting Minutes: The Board approved the August 2021 minutes with one word change.

Motion to Accept Consent Agenda with Reports from Treasurer and Bookkeeper.

The Director of Religious Exploration report was discussed briefly. Reverend Robinson will follow up and will update the Board at the October meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Vote for Liaison to the Board for the Leadership Development Committee

The Board discussed the question of whether it may be a conflict of interest for the President-Elect to serve in this role, and voted to accept Deb Matherly's offer to accept the role.

Update on Sunday Lock-Up Policy

Some changes were made to the schedule. The President will update the schedule and will share it with the Board and other stakeholders.

Review of Line of Credit Application and Plan to Pay Down the Mortgage

Ginny Verne led the discussion and reported that the appraisal has been done and reported to the bank, and insurance documents will be revised to correct typographical errors. When the loan documents are ready, the President will share these with the Board, and pending an approving vote from the Board the President will then coordinate with the attorney to sign the documents. The final loan amount is \$95,000. The Board voted to approve action by the Treasurer to execute paying down the mortgage as soon as an appointment can be made with the banker.

Second Reading of Proposed Line of Credit Policy

The Board voted to accept the proposed policy. Linda Brennon agreed to make sure the policy is attached to our permanent records.

Clarification on Submission of Committee Reports to the Board

Rev. Robinson will discuss timing of reporting with Administrator.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of New Member to the Endowment Committee

Robert Foster had agreed to serve in this role, and was voted into the role by the congregation at the 2021 annual meeting, but has since resigned. The Board will need to appoint someone to the role, and that person will need to be retroactively voted into by the congregation at the 2022 annual meeting. The Treasurer agreed to ask the Endowment Committee Chair to recommend individuals to the Board who may be willing to serve in the role.

Anti-Racism Initiative: Black Partner Church

Deb Matherly proposed that we consider an alignment with a local church. The Board asked that the Social Action Committee consider the question. Concurrently, Rev. Robinson agreed to open discussion of the idea with Dr. Pippin Whitaker.

Medicaid Expansion Letter

Pippin Whitaker reported that Sue Berkowitz, Executive Director, South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center, has invited UUCC to join other congregations in signing onto a letter from the Southerners for Medicaid Expansion Coalition asking U.S. Democratic Senators to support the House Energy and Commerce Committee policy to provide a permanent and comprehensive fix to America's coverage gap. Time did not allow the full Social Action Committee to discuss the matter, but the committee co-chairs support the action. Signatures are needed by 10 A.M. on Friday, September 17. The Board agreed, and the President will take action to complete the online signature form.

Apply for UU Justice Action Network Grant

Pippin Whitaker reported that the fledgling South Carolina UU Justice Action Network is becoming a reality. An initial meeting was held September 15, with 5+ congregations represented. All are interested in moving forward with a startup grant application due the end of this month. To strengthen the grant application, the Network is inviting congregations to show support or enthusiasm. We can express our support in the form of a formal letter of support. The Social Action Committee will discuss the issue on September 26. Dr. Pippin Whitaker noted that she anticipates working with the committee to draft a final letter of support, and will submit that document to the Board for an email vote. If the Board votes to accept the final draft, the President will execute.

Re-Institution of Shared Ministry Committee

Pat Mohr asks that the Board consider the possibility that this committee be reinstated. Our By-Laws identify this as a standing committee.

Chalice Lighter for October 20, 2021 meeting: Tiffany Rushton, with Jonathan White as backup if needed

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Submitted by: Beth Ann Rocheleau, Board Secretary