

First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting (Final)

May 11, 2021

Present: Mark Bender, President; Jane Cliff, Vice President; Mike Hogan, Secretary; Melinda Vernon; Mark Miller; Rollie Hanson; Dianna Dentino; Ben LeFort; Jane Peterson (Recording Secretary)

Also Present: Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom, Senior Minister; Erik Alexander, COVID-19 Re-opening Team; Jean Johnson, Director of Administration

Meeting called to order by Jane Cliff at 6:02 PM. Meeting conducted via Zoom.

Covid Re-Opening Plan and Precautions

Erik Alexander reviewed the presentation (by Erik and Lisa Koneazny) for the May 16, 2021 Annual Meeting. The primary determinant of reopening status will be Covid incidence (new cases) in Milwaukee County, as published on the CDC website. The reopening status of the church will always be clear to congregants via e-mail blasts, Facebook, and the church website. FUSM staff policies manual outlines Covid reopening and precautions procedures for in-person pastoral care, memorial services, small groups, in-person worship, other large groups, and outdoor gatherings. The prescribed incidence rate for each activity category must be maintained for 28 consecutive days.

Precautions include masks, hand washing, no food in the church building, social distance, touchless offering, and a time limit of under two hours for activities. In response to a question, Rev. Jennifer said although these measures may seem conservative, they are consistent with our values and mission.

After discussion, Mark Bender moved that the proposal presented showed compliance with BOT policy limitation 4.1.4 (safety). Dianna Dentino seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

Consent Agenda

The April 27, 2021 BOT meeting minutes, the monthly staff report, and a slate of delegates to attend this summer's UUA General Assembly, were approved unanimously after a motion to accept all consent agenda items was offered by Mike Hogan and seconded by Melinda Vernon.

Final Budget

There are no changes from the church year 2021-2022 budget presented at the April 27, 2021 BOT meeting. Melinda Vernon moved that the aforementioned budget is in compliance with FUSM policies and limitations. Rollie Hanson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Corporate Resolution

Mark Bender explained that a financial institution has asked FUSM to authorize the Treasurer to receive bequests on behalf of First Church. Accepting bequests is not currently listed as the role of the Treasurer. Mark presented a proposed resolution, with minor changes including naming Tom Briscoe as Treasurer, dropping reference to an Assistant Treasurer, and adding the effective dates. Ben LeFort moved and Mike Hogan seconded a motion to accept the resolution, and it carried unanimously. (See attached resolution).

2021-22 BOT Officers

Once voted into office at a short BOT meeting after the Annual Meeting on May 16, 2021, Jane Cliff will assume the presidency, Ben LeFort will serve as Vice President and Tony Panciera will be the Secretary. Additional new BOT members include George Bledsoe and Patricia Geenen.

Strategic Planning Team Annual Meeting Script

Jane C. asked the presenters to clarify that the budget gap is between income and expenses, and that growth is growth beyond membership numbers. After further discussion and questions to the presenters, Mike Hogan moved and Melinda Vernon seconded a motion to approve the script with noted suggestions. Motion carried unanimously.

Anti-Racism Experience of Potential Board Members

Jane C. said this is one way to advance anti-racism at FUSM. There is currently a list of attributes for the Nominating Committee, and this could be an additional item on the list. Rollie Hanson moved and Mark Bender seconded a motion to add anti-racism experience as one of the attributes the Nominating Committee should consider for BOT candidates. Motion carried unanimously.

Senior Minister Report

Rev. Jennifer announced the forgiveness of FUSM's PPP loan (Cares Act) and noted great pledge participation so far. She said there are now security cameras in the building, and that visitors can now be buzzed in from the office. She and other Milwaukee-area faith leaders presented a press conference on May 7, 2021 regarding Covid issues in India and southeast Asia.

Other Business

There was discussion on accommodating members for the Zoom annual meeting. Mark Miller and Shari Wright will confer on technology issues and concerns.

Jane C. reminded the BOT to complete the self-assessment survey and said planning for the August BOT retreat will begin soon.

Rev. Jennifer expressed her great appreciation for the work of the BOT this church year.

Mark Miller moved to adjourn, and Rollie Hanson seconded. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM.