

FINAL Draft
First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee
Minutes of the Meeting of Board of Trustees

Tuesday, March 28, 2023 via Zoom

Present:

Ben LeFort (President), Pat Geenen (Vice President & Meeting Chair), George Bledsoe (Secretary), Rollie Hanson, Tony Panciera (Recording Secretary), Joe Riepenhoff, Amy Wilbourne, Mike Hogan (joined at 7:47), Jean Johnson

Absent: Sarah Richards

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

1. Opening Sequence

2. Approval of February 2023 Meeting Minutes (George)

- Ben moved to approve; Seconded by George. Approved unanimously.

3. Allocation of \$80,000 Frank Evans bequest (Ben)

- A very generous bequest has been received. Ben is recommending we delay decisions about how these monies would be used until Jennifer's return from her sabbatical. The board agrees.

4. Endowment Task Force Update (Elizabeth Lentini)

- Elizabeth shared communication efforts as well as the progress the task force has made on their charge. They have completed a mission statement, clarified a recommended structure, consulted with outside counsel, and planned congregational communications. They are still working on more specific fund withdrawal guidelines, oversight role, and other structural modeling.
- The task force has requested the board advise on legal fee allocation, priorities for investment and flexibility, when to begin withdrawals, if the Memorial Trust Fund monies be rolled in, and what to present at the Annual Meeting.
- It was advised that there cannot be too much communication and multiple methods are needed. There was discussion about attorney recommendations to ensure the church gets the best person for the job and our financial constraints, as well as a modified timeline. The general consensus of the board was that socially responsible investing is important (and in overarching policies). Also, with the market sluggish right now there is less rush to invest, so the task force can put more time into finding the right attorney for the job, on a delayed timeline. They will plan to return to us in August with a draft document.

5. Staff Report (Jean)

- Attendance continues to be strong since Jennifer left for sabbatical. Lots of visitors, especially with small children. The pledge drive was essentially flat. Board members will be tasked to help with some follow-up calls.

6. Congregational Survey Results (Tony)

- Analysis and reporting has been completed and will be communicated shortly. At a high level, we are doing well and this survey showed a bounce back to pre-pandemic assessments, in many ways. We shifted to percentages to account for a lower response rate. There were some pieces of feedback to be followed up on by board and staff, which Tony will share with Jean and Ben.

7. BOT charge (RE Article II and 8th principle) to First Church delegates to GA (Rollie)

- Motion to use Rollie's statement to send to delegates :

The Board of Trustees supports the UUA Article 2 Commission approach and proposed Revision of Article 2 to the UUA bylaws. We encourage the First Church delegates to support the Commission's work and the revised Article 2 values contained in the Article 2 Report. The Board understands and accepts the delegates must vote their conscience in considering any amendments to the Commission's Revision to Article 2. We strongly encourage our delegates to be open to change over perfection.

- Joe moved, Amy seconded. Passed unanimously

8. Board 2022/23 Training Prep (Ben)

- Establishing goals could be a place to start or increased communication could be a goal. Coaching can help with us communicating what we're doing more, in relation to anti-racism work .
- There are examples of direct and congregational anti-racism and multiculturalism work, but it is hard to say what we are doing as the board at the intersection of anti-racism and policy governance.

9. Nominations for 2023/24 Nom Com and New Board Members (Mike)

- The candidates presented to the board by the Nominating Committee are:
 - Board: Stacey Thieme, Stacy Koenen, Dana Brooks
 - Nomination Committee: Jane Cliff, Michael Pointer-Mace
- Vote was postponed due to incomplete bios. Bios and pictures will be circulated for an email vote of the board on the roster of candidates.
- *Update: Ben called the question via email and the board unanimously voted in support of the slate of candidates on April 6.*

10. Other Business

- Annual meeting planning preparation was discussed.

11. Adjournment

- Adjourned at 8:05pm