

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
July 16, 2019

Presiding: Scott Kestner

Call To Order 7:02 p.m.

Secretary: Rich Williams

Process Observer:

Attendees: Betsy Bicknell, Scott Kestner, Kaye Cook, Rich Williams, Milo Valenzuela, Paul Atelsek, Rev. David Miller, Ashley Rothermel, Mark Magee, Darryl Branting

Absent: Matt Higgins.

Spiritual Opening/Chalice Lighting

Rev. David Miller

From Serving With Grace: Bringing It All Together:

(¶7) *It makes sense to see church leadership as a spiritual practice because church leadership is hard.*

Board Minutes

Rich Williams

- The Jun. 4, 2019, minutes were approved per edits advised.

Minister's Report

Rev. David Miller

- General Assembly: UUMA Ministry Days; Difficult situation involving the Spokane minister, Todd Ekiof, distributing his published essays, "The Gadfly Papers: Three Inconvenient Essays by One Pesky Minister," Some people walked out of the 25-50 Service. Rev. Ekiof was asked not to return. Essays speak to logic and reason dogma. People of color are what the Unitarian Universalist Association is supposed to be about. This is the struggle that we have and we need to know how we are going to be dealing with it – "preparing for the unpreparable." How do I best serve this congregation? There are deep divisions following from our 1950s model. I will be in community with my UU colleagues (River Road & Cedar Lane) in determining what it means to be ally congregations. It best serves all of us to be equipped to deal with the anxiety that we are in the midst of.
- In October I will be meeting with the UUCF senior staff to assess ways to best work together and attempt to involve the board at a conference together in January.
- On Sep. 7, we will conduct a joint CT/board retreat with the second part of the day developing a vision for moving forward. The idea is to wipe the slate clean as the traditional concept of a 3- or 5-year strategic plan does not seem appropriate in this environment. I have a definite sense that this feels different as there seems to be a tear in the fabric of who we are and a questioning in the country as to what it means to be an American. This board must be thoughtful, open and vulnerable.

[Ref: "After the Good News: Progressive Faith Beyond Optimism" by Nancy McDonald Ladd]

Long-Term Planning/Spirituality/White Supremacy Discussions

Scott Kestner

- My intention is have one meeting each month focused on long-term planning, spirituality and white supremacy discussions with Rev. David guiding us through the part on white supremacy. The other board meeting would be dedicated to normal business.

Covenant of Right Relations

Scott Kestner

- Covenant of Right Relations – I have added this as part of the back page of the agenda form.
 - We will develop a new board covenant during the retreat in September.
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Calendar & Sign-Ups

Scott Kestner

- I will set up an online calendar for members to sign up for meeting assignments.
- We'll also need to assist in facilitating greeter sign-ups to support Mary Foster.

Election of Officers

Scott Kestner

- Board Officers – 2019-20 Program Year

Vice President	Rich Williams
Treasurer	Darryl Branting
Assistant Treasurer	Mark Magee
Secretary	Matt Higgins

Financials Dashboard

Rev. David Miller

- A \$16,000-17,000 deficit for the year was expected, and for which the board approved in conjunction with the staff position changes.
- The pledge deficit margin is 4% which is actually a good (i.e., low) figure.
- Quotes for roof repairs per RFP are coming in. We have a \$45,000 quote for repairing the flooring.

New Assistant Minister, Rev. Lara

Rev. David Miller

- There is no update on the status of her start with us.
- Since Lara's salary was budgeted beginning with the month of September, I will be hiring a part-time employee to help with pastoral care.

Board Observations

- Decision made by the members of the board to move the meeting start time from 7:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Betsy has volunteered to organize the board dinner auction item.
- Scott was commended for the way in which he conducted the election of board officers.

Process Observer

- The new members were not shy about getting involved in the discussions and volunteering for roles.
- We do not talk over one another.
- The meeting went beyond the projected adjournment time but that was expected and necessary due to the first issue on the agenda.

Adjourned

9:48 p.m.

Next Meeting: Jul. 30, 2019, 7 p.m.
Spiritual Opening: Darryl Branting
Process Observer: Milo Valenzuela

Respectfully Submitted: Richard Williams