

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Aug 20, 2019

Call To Order: 7:05 p.m.

Presiding: Scott Kestner

Secretary: Matt Higgins

Process Observer: Rich Williams

Attendees: Kaye Cook, Rich Williams, Darryl Branting, Matt Higgins, Milo Valenzuela, Mark Magee, Scott Kestner, Rev. David Miller, Ashley Rothermel

Absent: Betsy Bicknell

Board member check-ins

Spiritual Opening/ Chalice Lighting: Mark Magee

Board Minutes: Matt Higgins

- The Aug. 6, 2019, minutes were unanimously approved per edits advised.

Minister's Report: Rev. David Miller

- Services are set through the end of December. Rev Miller will preach fairly often given current staffing shortages.
- Ingathering picnic is planned.
- Fall Festival will be on Oct. 20 with one service only at 10 a.m.
- UUCF has received a letter back from Sen. Tim Kaine's office regarding the status Rev. Lara's immigration paperwork. Process of all immigration paperwork is delayed, and her paperwork is still in queue. It is possible we may be able to expedite and we are looking into this.
- Good press coverage from recent NRA marches.
- Minister and lay ministers' retreats went very well.
- Social justice coordinator position description is being finalized with an anticipated November start date.
- Racial justice training coming up for UUCF staff.
- Q&A service from this past Sunday was generally well received.

Treasurer's Report: Darryl Branting

- Expenses are up \$5k over budgeted for this month, but not clear on other details.

Board Membership Announcement/Discussion: Milo Valenzuela

- Milo is moving out of the area and needs to resign. The board will reach out to the nominating committee to solicit names and will appoint a new board member to fill in Milo's remaining year.

Board-CT Retreat planning: Scott Kester

- CT and board together in morning, separate discussions in the afternoon, reconvene at the end of day. Discussion of topics to cover:

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- Suggestion to discuss better communication and messaging with congregation in regards to book “White Fragility.”
- Suggestion to get together with CT, have long range discussion of what we want UUCF to look like, discuss membership growth, revenue challenges property, where we want to go over the next 20 years.
- Suggestion on how to speak with one board voice.

Communication with Congregation Discussion: Matt Higgins

- Discussions on more effective ways to listen and communicate with congregation, roles of board, expectations.
- What are we trying to communicate?
- Start finance-related communication discussions earlier in fiscal year.
 - Idea to communicate basic budget facts through slideshows before Annual Meetings.
- Plan to communicate with congregation must be strategic in thought, thinking through end goals of what we are trying to accomplish.

Leadership Development Team (LDT) Board Rep: Scott Kester

- Purpose of the team is to develop a broad base of qualified leaders. Three main items: leadership dinner, leadership retreat, and nuts and bolts class.
- Kaye volunteers to be the board rep to LDT.

Board Observations: All

- Ministry evaluation team. Continuity will be via Rich on the team, but will need two additional people.
- Board dinner: Rich will start polling people for questions/answers.

Process Observations: Rich Williams

- Overall good, discussions on retreat and last week’s sermon slightly long, but important. People contributed without dominating conversation.

Adjourn: Scott Kestner

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Next Meeting: Sep. 3, 2019, 7 p.m.

Spiritual Opening: Rev. David Miller

Process Observer: Kaye Cook