

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
November 19, 2019

Presiding: Scott Kestner

Call To Order 7:05 p.m.

Secretary: Rich Williams

Process Observer: Darryl Branting

Attendees: Betsy Bicknell, Scott Kestner, Kaye Cook, Rich Williams, Rev. David A. Miller, Peggy Hillman, Mark Magee, Darryl Branting

Absent: Ashley Rothermel, Matt Higgins

Spiritual Opening/Chalice Lighting

Rev. David A. Miller

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Board Minutes

Scott Kestner

- Copies of the Nov. 5 board minutes were distributed by Matt and comments received. The minutes were approved by consent.

Minister's Report

Rev. David A. Miller

**Property Stewardship Council (PSC):** Gina Wells and Pete Krone, representing the CT, met with the PSC. Gina presented a "zone plan" as a proposal for defining those areas on campus to allow more natural versus cultivated plant management.

**Roofapalooza:** The funding commitment has now reached \$196,000. We may be close to being able to fund the traffic circle work or will be able to pay for the Program Building fire panel.

**Septic System:** During the Banding Together fundraising concert Saturday evening, the septic system alarm sounded. It was determined that a motor operating the pump stopped working.

**Nominating Committee:** The Nominating Committee is interested in learning more about what it means to serve on the board. An invitation has been extended to the members of the Nominating Committee to attend the Dec. 3 board meeting.

**Social Justice Coordinator Position:** The acceptance of candidates was closed on Nov. 15. We have received seven applications of which three appear to be very good.

**Judy Beattie Memorial Service:** The service was held on Nov. 17 with 300+ in attendance. She was very evidently well thought of.

**Chris Crass Workshop & Service:** Feel that Chris' presentations were very successful. In addition I feel that it is time to move on.

Treasurer's Report

Darryl Branting

In the interest of time, Scott asked that we move forward on the agenda and provide for a full treasurer's report at the Dec. 3 meeting.

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Communications Plan

Mark Magee

Mark presented a paper, Board Focus Groups, containing the proposed concept and questions for the meetings. It was concurred that previewing the UUCF covenant at the start of each meeting would be a good idea. The question was raised as to how much information/education related to the purpose for the meetings could be incorporated without limiting the balance of time allotted for the meetings.

A discussion ensued as to whether we yet have the questions that need to be posed in the meetings. "Why are we here?" "We want people to dream and be aspirational." Also, "Who are to be the participants?" "How big are the groups going to be?" Recommended that we (1) invite people and (2) advertise scheduled open meetings.

Rev. David suggested the following steps to get us back to the original thoughts about this strategic objective:

1. Looking down the road 10-20 years, lead decisions about the direction we will take. This is not the traditional 3-to-5-year strategic plan horizon.
2. Facilitate a discussion on dreams of who we could be in 10- 20 years – away from focusing on current individual preferences.
3. Distill the feedback coming out of the meetings.
4. Report back to the congregation
5. Formulate a long-term strategic plan.

As an aid in helping the board re-focus on the strategic objective(s) Rev. David re-read his notes from a conversation last year with a colleague. (He also emailed those notes for the members to review.)

How we title this initiative is important in drawing people in. "What does the future look like if we don't make changes." "This is not sustainable."

Next Step: Change the focus questions.

Process Observations

Darryl Branting

We had a late start for the meeting, with a long check-in period. The spiritual opening was unique and appreciated. Everyone contributed and we got done what was needed to do tonight.

Adjourned 9:15 p.m.

Next Meeting: Dec. 3, 2019, at 7 p.m.

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Respectfully Submitted: Richard Williams