

First Universalist Church, Unitarian Universalist, Auburn, Maine
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2025
Bonnie Soper Room

Present: David Das (President), Anne Perron (Vice-President), Linda Greathouse (Clerk), John Spruill (member-at-large), Jane Pentheny (member-at-large), Ed Bell (member-at-large), Claire Hebert (member-at-large)

Excused: None

Guests: None



Board Chalice

7:02 PM: The meeting was called to order by David, followed by the chalice lighting by Anne.

Sharing: Brief sharing was done by all those in attendance.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT (INCLUDED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION):

The Board went into Executive Session from 7:10 – 7:30 PM re: future contract ministerial work.

OPEN SESSION: No members present.

BOARD MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS:

Several Board members reported congregational interest in social justice activities:

- Thanks to Dianne Chase for volunteering to chair the Social Justice Committee!
- John will follow up with Dianne
- Requests for re-instituting specified organization second collections.
- Questions about how we can continue to support the DIC.

A request was made to receive the Board agenda sooner than the day before the meeting – David will make every effort to get it published as soon as possible.

The church’s certification process information has been submitted to the UUA – Thanks Anne Kinney for her data collection efforts and submission, and others who provided her needed information!

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Anne Kinney provided via email an update on the upcoming UUA General Assembly delegates/planning:

- Auburn UU membership has dropped so we are now eligible to have 2 voting members at GA instead of 3.
- Anne Kinney will fill one delegate position, so we need a second one – need to seek a volunteer.
- Need to determine if there are funds to provide reimbursement to participants, some details:
 - GA is in Baltimore or remote for 5 days, 6/18 - 6/22.
 - Registration per individual is \$410 or \$475 depending on the date of registration.
 - In addition, there are charges for travel and expenses unless participant opts for remote participation.
 - In the past delegates were voted on at the congregation's Annual Meeting, we may want to consider adding that to the agenda for this year's meeting in June.

Jane will follow up on the GA items.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

January 6, 2025, minutes:

A motion to approve the Board minutes of January 6, 2025, was made by John, seconded by Jane, and approved by all.

DISCUSSION AND DELEGATION:

1. The Board is following up on an opportunity for congregational support as we navigate the current possibility of attacks on members of our immigrant and LGBTQ+ community members. We may identify additional targeted groups in this discriminatory political environment and want to be as prepared as possible to provide support. More information to follow.
2. 2025/2026 Budget Discussion – Ellen O'Brien, Treasurer, provided the following information prior to the Board meeting:
 - We should be at about 7/12 or 58% of budgeted income/expenses
 - Pledge income is at about 48%, total income is at about 45%.
 - Rental income is at about 32% of hoped for building use. Some income may be missing
 - Fundraising is at 120%.. yay church fair!
 - Expenses: running about normal. We are at 48% for expenditures, so we are close to matching income. – a good thing.

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- Total minister expense for the year is projected to be \$45,500 and that INCLUDES all the sub ministers. (4 per month). Budget was \$96,500.
- Total income \$92,720, total expenses \$118,805. Budget is \$206,600 income, \$245,500 for expenses.
- Plan to use Heritage or Memorial Fund if needed. So far, not needed.
- We have received the money from Hackett Fund and it is parked in our 0144 savings account at Maine Community Bank. That is for apartment renovations.
- Issue is streamlining our payment system for things like reimbursements, or sub ministers. There's a meeting scheduled to see if we can figure out something that works for everyone.

The Board discussed continuing our “focus and investment” in the RE and Music programs and anticipate there will be additional needs as we “ramp up” our social justice involvement.

The apartment at 159 A Pleasant Street will be rented effective 3/1/2025, so monthly rental income should not be negatively impacted by the DIC moving to their new location.

Building and Grounds is looking into a contract with a commercial cleaner.

As we approach Stewardship kickoff, the Board and Committees should think about modifications to their budget requests and submit those to Finance/Ellen ASAP for inclusion in the upcoming campaign.

3. Town Hall Planning – It is anticipated that our next Town Hall will be scheduled within the next month and focus on what we can do related to the current political environment and community fear. The Annual Budget Town Hall meeting was scheduled for Sunday, June 1st after the service and the Annual Meeting will be on Sunday June 8th.
4. Other – It was suggested that while we have been focusing on building “clean up” that we think about things the Board can look at from a policy perspective for “clean up.” It was suggested that one item could be defining membership statuses as we move to utilize Breeze software for management of church communication, calendaring, etc.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 3, at 7:00 PM in the Bonnie Soper Meeting Room, all are invited to attend.

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Respectfully submitted,

Linda Greathouse
Board Clerk