

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Wilmington, North Carolina
Board of Trustees (BOT) Meeting Minutes, July 18, 2023**

Attending: Robert Demko, Kathy Gillcrist, Jane Horrell, Jeannie Lennon, Dennis McCulley, Gary O'Connell, Jimmy Reeves, Michael Sheridan, Fran Strauss
Ex-Officio: Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Gary at 5:15, chalice was lit, Covenant was read.

Election of Officers: Docket offered was Gary O'Connell for President, Jimmy Reeves for Vice President, Jane Horrell for Secretary. *The Board unanimously voted these three congregants into office for the 2023/2024 church year.*

Governance Model: It was explained that without a full time minister, the Board needs to choose either a Policy Model (which is what was utilized in 2022/2023, which was Reverend Kathy managed in an executive function), or Portfolio Model (in which members of the Board act as liaisons to designated committees and groups within the congregation). Gary explained the differences in the two models, discussion ensued. *The Board voted to adopt a Portfolio Model for the 2023/2024 church year.* Within this model, communication is very important, as is the need for the Board to speak as one voice.

Minutes/Reports:

The Board voted unanimously to accept the Treasurer's report including Balance Sheet, The Minister's report, Lifelong Faith Exploration report and June's minutes. Appendix A (1 & 2), B, C, D.

Liaison Roles: Following the decision to utilize a Portfolio Governance model, Board members will need to choose roles. Gary will send out the list of committee and groups within the congregation. Gary will act as the Finance liaison until further notice. Jimmy suggested a communication to the congregation that provides a clear structure for who should be contacted if need arise.

Board Meetings/Calendar: It was decided that that the Board will meet on the 4th Tuesday for a monthly meeting. Additionally, the Executive committee (president, vice-president, secretary, Reverend) will meet on the 3rd Tuesday. The next board meeting will be August 22nd.

Retreat: This meeting should be on a Saturday and should be an in-person meeting. The Retreat is when the Board sets priorities for the upcoming year. Ideally this meeting should be August or September. The Board decided August 26 is the best time for this year's retreat. Details to follow.

Conversations with the Board: These casual meetings have proven to be invaluable tools for connecting and communicating with the congregation. The Board will host September 14 (via Zoom) and September 17 (following service).

Beyond Categorical Thinking: This online program will be over a Friday evening and Saturday morning, lasting approximately 1.5 hours each session. These meetings, led by UUA, are "held by all Searching Congregations to encourage us to think differently and more broadly as we consider our choices of ministerial candidates". The Search committee is required to attend both session, the Board's participation is strongly recommended.

Worship Associates: Gary reminded the group that Board members serve as worship associates throughout the year, generally one Board member per month. Board members need to look at their

calendar and choose a month. This will be determined in August. Additionally, the Digest Moderator is needed for August while Gary is on vacation. Michael graciously volunteered.

Kelley Wheat Rivers / Letter of Agreement: The Board expressed gratitude to Reverent Kathy's insights regarding the Letter of Agreement and associated job description for Reverent Kelley. Going forward, Kelley will preform duties specializing in pastoral care and support, with the UUA-provided title "Affiliated Community Minister". *The Board enthusiastically voted in yes to the role, the title and the Letter of Agreement. Appendix E*

Generous Life Team (GLT): Currently this committee consists of just two members, Gary Barnes and Barbara Williams. The Board need to assist in recruiting for this team. Gary encouraged Board members to each reach out to two congregants in an effort to recruit for this committee. A career fair was suggested.

Fundraising: Gary explained the Board should fundraise \$10,000 annually. Ideas and suggestions included dinner "lottery", Side with Love vest and/or tee shirt sales. Fran shared that the cards fundraiser has raised \$800.

Signage: Conversation was tabled. A policy needs to be established.

Google Drives: Jimmy offered to organize the Google drives and educated the Board were needed.

Social Justice Committee (SJC): The committee requests a banner that reads "Show up for Justice. UU Congregation of Wilmington", in the name of the 8th Principle. The SJC needs Board approval to purchase the sign out of their budget. *The Board voted unanimously yes to this request. Appendix F.*

Coming soon (August):

Establishment of a formalized Building Committee, complete with action items.

Safety should be realistically addressed

Rental Rates- Dennis volunteered to review the existing documents.

Policy of committees.

Committee for Ministry's Young Member Report

Meeting Adjourned at 6:58pm.