

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes August 29, 2023

Primary Location: 2650 North Druid Hills Road, 2nd Floor, Library 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm

OR

Secondary Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88223632519?pwd=RFdrR0dpR2dEd2ZLNjITakorTzVLQT09>

Meeting ID: 882 2363 2519

Passcode: 851147

Invitees: David Yamashita - President, Barbara Begner - President-Elect, Dave Sjoquist - Finance and Endowment, Beth Carpenter - HRC, Leta Woo - Secretary and Minister Call, Herschel Beazley - TBD, Janel Dennard - Stewardship, Terry Carpenter - ARAOMC, Bryce Thomason - Director, Rev. Taryn Strauss - Senior Minister

Absent: Mary Liebs Honeycutt - Fundraising

Notes taken by: Leta Woo

David called the meeting to order at 6:26PM

Dave light the chalice and lead opening with "The unexpected stairwell"

Circle of Connection:

David asked everyone to share joys and concerns.

Barbara is today's process observer. Yay!

Ending Mass Incarceration:

- Review from Sunday Workshop
- Review Joy Documents
- What do Board Members think after studying?
- Next Steps

They did a great job condensing a lot of material; maybe a need for a bit more direction about exactly what they need; example from Mistakes and Miracles was going to an organization and asking exactly what they need and delivering on that

Thought Nicole looking for resources not necessarily people; appreciate resources, but something we can grow into; not sure what we can provide; small group start somewhere and then grow into it; vision is that this turns into something that we did with Hope-Hill school many years ago; not only money but volunteer time, any activity was appreciated by Principal and teachers; Hope-Hill was run for years by very strong leaders, effort went way down after those leaders left; similar program around ending mass incarceration, instead of just a few people being involved and everyone else hearing about it; idea to adopt family or someone coming out of incarceration; providing a lot of resources to someone coming out of incarceration; know of other congregations that supported housing, jobs for a family; family was integrated into congregation

Hope-Hill was maybe run by a few people, it's ok that Hope-Hill is not a major issue; opportunity to look at that; we don't have endless reserve of people and resources; people want to start programs and not necessarily people who want to join

Unclear about what Joy wants? Is this different from the Climate Action Team or Partners in Education? We need a social justice theme that we as a congregation can focus on instead of internal focus; ending mass incarceration seems broad enough to include everyone; new social justice initiative, either all-congregation, provide us a channel to other congregations; gets us access

Three session Ending Mass Incarceration workshop class in September; better to be grassroots and come from the congregation; limits to culture change coming from leadership; needs to feel like opportunity; busy on ministry instead of distractions; board may not have a role right now

Strategy - get smaller groups excited about smaller accomplishments; November might be the time to push on it?

What does it mean to be a church-wide activity or is it an integrated church-wide activity? Needs to be explored and experienced by congregation; at least a year and move towards a vote Meet with Joy about this with Rev. Strauss and a few board members David will talk to Joy tomorrow

Auto-renewal/increase proposal

Likely need to have more discussion; Social Security increase is announced in October; Implementation could be tricky; September 17th is the launch of Stewardship campaign

Rev. Strauss encourage us to look through an economic justice lens
Communication is important; how we talk about it is really important

Old Business from the Previous Board Meeting

Rev It Up Matching Campaign - Status

We're at about \$90k! Yay!
Need to celebrate!

Article II - Website Updates and Discussion

Dave revised webpage; introduction paragraph and links to several items
Inform the congregation to what end?
So congregants can decide whether they want to be a delegate and vote on Article II
Shay is putting in monthly information about Article II

Thank You messages for the month.

Barbara Dale (for bringing cake to outreach) - Barbara Begner
Susan McWethy and Diane Gornell - David Yamashita
Willie Sullivan - Leta Woo

The Work of the Board

Finance Report

Dave S.

For the year, we are not doing as well as we were at the end of June. We have gone from a YTD surplus of \$24,637 to a deficit of \$4,581; revenues in July were \$34,596 below what was projected, but still about the average for July of prior years. YTD revenues are \$22,033 below projected revenue; expenditures for July were \$5,378 below projected expenditures, and YTD expenditures are \$17,452 under projected YTD expenditures.

Pledge payments are below expected pledge payments; YTD we are at 93% of expected pledge revenue. There are 60 pledging units (19% of total pledging units) who have not made any payment this year. Fundraising is a problem.

Can some of these pledge issues be addressed before this year's Stewardship?

Maybe a good idea that we're getting ready for next year's Stewardship - communicate to people one on one; maybe the 35 people

Proposal to send out two communications, 35 people who have no recorded payment and another to people 50% below

*Dave will email list to Rev. Strauss to review

Leta moves to approve finance

Herschel seconds

All approve, no abstentions

Approval of the Minutes

Leta moves to approve minutes

Janel seconds

All approve, Beth abstention

August 2023 Executive Report to the BOT

Shay teaching course

Volunteer Celebration happened

Grief Support Group will begin Sept 20th

Search and hire a second minister to guide social justice vision - Jason Delaney is serving to help with this
71 enrolled in RE; goal is 100

A few new hires - Eli Shuford in early August and new childcare (Danielle Taylor), Courtney Brooks,
Gallery Coordinator

Everyone is invited to Radical Welcome training!

Asking Board to choose 1-2 people to make a personal ask to invite someone to Radical Welcome training

Willie Sullivan promoted at Deloitte; Don is working on filling the position

Stewardship Committee

Janel

Team as a whole hasn't met together since the last board meeting; making sure goals and activities of everyone are aligned; shared leadership; making sure people focus on the right things; why do you come, why are you a part of our community

Healthy Relations Committee

Beth C.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fIRoZoJfTVTlu0UVycUAQmIXarOLZlq/edit?usp=sharing&oid=117792818225475270124&rtpof=true&sd=true>

*Beth asking for feedback on above by September 10th

Working on two main things; safe congregation working with disruptive people; have a draft policy to get to Rev. Strauss and will then bring to the board for approval

Nominating Committee

Barbara

On track, putting job descriptions together for when they meet with people; info session at next meeting at end of September; if nobody shows up, they will plan for table after service; group is excited and wants to be leaders

Make sure descriptions say something about being joyful and spirit-filled

ARAOMC Committee

Terry

Committee proposal is written, idea of the beginning of a periodic blog on ARAOMC; idea has been looked at by Shay and Rev. Strauss; is original proposal going to be part of the blog?; weekly update; shorter version with a link; both Rev. Strauss and David will give some names to Terry

Endowment Committee

Dave S.

Received a sizable gift from someone's estate; changing portfolio; moving towards more socially conscious funds

Fundraising Committee

Liebs leads (not present at this meeting)

Idea for honoring elders, having a dinner as fundraising; maybe in October or November; be catered \$125/plate, honoring some elders: MaryAnn and Godfrey Oakley, Bebe Forehand, and Rhett Baird; maybe 'Odyssey'

Barbara can work with other people, Liebs and Beth can help; David will talk to Laura about that Janel - Dance instructors are friends; there's a dance on tik tok broken down from Barbie; charge \$20-25; learn dance, dance party with light refreshments; wear your pink!

Minister Call Committee

Leta

First meeting will be Sunday September 24th

Team has been assembled:

Thoughtful process and then drive a date

By Laws
David Y.
Nothing today

Process Observations - Barbara

Did we observe covenant? Yes, there was conflict, it was addressed and named
Did we remain on task? Yes, 100%, long meeting, so much to talk about
How agenda demonstrate ARAOMC? talking about ARAOMC, honoring pronouns
High energy moment? food was fabulous, dancing
Low energy moment? some frustration around stewardship
Most meaningful part of meeting? holding conflict and staying in relationship

Next meeting September 26th:

Janel - opening/closing

Dave - dinner provider

Dave closing reading

Our Vision: Inspired by our faith community, we affirm these values:

- Wonder and awe
- Love and compassion
- Courageous engagement

Our Mission: Transforming lives through courageous action and soulful connection

Our 2023 - 2024 Board Goals:

1. Work to increase revenue sufficiently to support the operations of the congregation
2. Support the radical welcome and belonging teams to grow the congregation
3. Support Social Justice with one all congregation initiative
4. Support updating the UUCA Covenant of Healthy Relationships
5. Call the Senior Minister
6. Leadership Development
7. Start building the Connected Community

I.Spirit and Community

Agenda Topic	Lead Speaker	Start Time
Dinner	Provided by Janel	6:00
Chalice Lighting/Opening Words	Dave	6:15

Circle of Connection: Joy and Concerns	Herschel - Start	6:20
Announcements/New Business Process Observer for the August Meeting Ending Mass Incarceration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review from Sunday Workshop ● Review Joy Documents ● What do Board Members think after studying? ● Next Steps Auto-renewal/increase proposal Old Business from the Previous Board Meeting Rev It Up Matching Campaign - Status Article II - Website Updates and Discussion	Board David Rev. Taryn Bryce Dave S.	6:30
<i>Thank You messages</i> for the month.	Board	7:00

II. The Work of the Board

Approval of the Minutes	Leta
Finance Report	Dave S.
Stewardship Committee	Janel
Healthy Relations Committee https://docs.google.com/document/d/1flRoZoJfTVTlu0UVycUAQmIXarOLZlq/edit?usp=sharing&oid=117792818225475270124&rtpof=true&sd=true	Beth C.
Nominating Committee	Barbara

ARAOMC Committee	Terry
Endowment Committee	Dave S.
Fundraising Committee	Liebs
Minister Call Committee	Leta
By Laws	David Y.

III. Closing

Process Observation		
Next Meeting: Scheduled for August 22, 2023		
Chalice Lighter: Dinner provider:		
Closing Words/Extinguishing the Chalice	Dave	8:30