

## Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes March 19 , 2024

Primary Location: 2650 North Druid Hills Road, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, Mary Liebs Honeycutt - Fundraising, Leta Woo - Minister Call, Janel Dennard - Stewardship, Terry Carpenter - ARAOMC, Bryce Thomason - Director, Rev. Taryn Strauss - Senior Minister

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

Call to order 6:24pm

Barbara Begner - "To be of use" reading

Circle of Connection

SOUUL Summit - Reflections and Feelings

Reviewed positive emails from participants; 5 other congregations planning to put attending SOUUL in their budget for next year; Charlotte board meeting to talk about SOUUL summit instead of their normal program; Rev. Taryn shared some feedback she received, very positive and touching; Southern region should probably be funding us

Liebs will send out email for Board members to write handwritten thank you notes to volunteers

David move to approve minutes

Dave seconds

All approve except one

One abstention

#### Board Members and Stewardship Committee Updates

Herschel has decided to resign after his one-year term. We are grateful for Herschel's service and the Board will write a note to thank Herschel. The remaining two years of Herschel's term is filled along with all of the slate except for two stewardship positions. David talked to Chris Martin about bylaws and how Chris will be rolling off of stewardship next year along with Elizabeth Field as stewardship co-chairs to keep with the bylaws

#### Article II Discussion Update

Dave has not heard back directly from anyone who attended; the first two sessions were well attended; thinks it has gone really well; questions and comments have varied; comments from visitors think it's really great

These sessions are assuming Article II will pass, do we need to think about what happens after it passes? UUA will likely provide materials. ARE will also be thinking about this. Concerning delegates for General Assembly, get announcement out now through the weekly update

For UUCA GA, expectations to be at UUCA and be with someone in person; have meals together here at UUCA; coordinate workshops online, have discussion and reflection time; have a human experience  
March 16 to May 15 cost is \$280-315 for full virtual

Application is now to end of day April 22

\*Dave will get announcement for applications to Lynnette by tomorrow morning

Once you register for GA, either as business only or full virtual, you'll show up on this list; pick UUCA on the drop down list; Bryce will see everyone who has registered and can assign voting rights  
Should be voting in relationship and be with your congregants; talking through what just happened or what was inspiring in a workshop

#### UU the Vote

Thursday was the opening, we were involved four years ago; want to be involved this year

Added Board members to Realm group - Good Trouble Congregation

#### Executive Report

SOUUL summit took its inspiration from previous SUULE (involved paying consultants) and Orange conference (full-time paid employees); it's a lot of extra work for staff to produce SOUUL summit; difficult because too much work for not enough pay?; we are ambitious, we want to be growing; people are taking vacations; naming the issues; next year should be better because we'll have more staff; there's a hunger for programming like this

Need an associate assistant minister!

Rev. Taryn is organizing a theological study group for ministers in the southeast; previous groups were sort of elitist; this one is called forged in southern fire; starting with young minister that just graduated from Harvard; anybody who is a fellowshipped UU minister can be a member

#### Finance

Did SOUUL summit have positive/negative expenditures? We think we'll break even, but hoping to offer bonuses to staff

Typical finance meeting is Monday before board meeting, but since we're meeting early this month, won't meet until next Monday

This month's report not as meaningful because revenues that should have been reported in January weren't reported until February

Year to date, we have an actual surplus so far, will look at more details

Finance committee will meet and we'll send out the typical report later

#### Stewardship

David and Laura starting planning now; initial budget for next year; messaging this year is really important; multiwave approach; not a single theme, maybe try approaching groups; try multiple things early and see what works; check-in wave that has nothing to do with money; June and January are good check-in months; top donor dinner a possibility; congregational wave that gets people with a lunch after service; one on ones are very intensive and not great to do every year; start stewardship in June where the focus is more than fundraising; maybe a picnic? Election coming up, moving people out of comfort; how important UUCA is; we are a cause people believe in

#### Call Process Task Force

Asking for help from Board for the vote to call Rev. Taryn on May 12 directly after the 11am service finishes; possibility for Zoom room hybrid virtual/in-person in the sanctuary

Only way to guarantee anonymity is to be in person; no one is planning to look, it's a whole lot of effort to look at the Zoom to see how you vote

Hybrid meeting in sanctuary is challenging but doable

Board is volunteering to check if you're an eligible voter before receiving your ballot

We will not be offering absentee balloting options; all voting will happen in real-time either in-person or on Zoom

#### Nominating committee

Meeting every two weeks; completed board and nom com slate; still need to find stewardship chairs; nom com has been really strong and visible; leadership has been important to them

#### HRC committee

Working on reimagining covenant process; for safe congregation policy, feedback from people and fix a few things; when there are issues in the congregation, the aftermath is where you learn a lot more; aspects of culture of congregation and way it responds that are very revealing; UUCA may have some issues; executive huddle should be talking about assumptions, expectations, and boundaries, and doing that regularly; UU minister’s association has workshops and common reads addressing these issues of boundaries; HRC may have a role to help us through talking more openly about boundaries in general and some recent issues around people making inappropriate comments about other people’s bodies, for example, commenting on weight loss, weight gain, appearances, etc.

Liebs moves to pass safe congregation policy

David seconds

All in favor except one

One abstention

ARAOMC

Making people aware of HRC efforts; look at ARAOMC survey from 2022, can revive; read through and make sure it’s still appropriate; more to report next time

For next meeting:

Dave doing dinner

Leta doing words

Barbara will be process observer for next meeting

Closing

Barbara - “Wild Geese”

**I. Spirit and Community**

| Agenda Topic                                                                              | Lead Speaker    | Start Time |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Dinner                                                                                    | Liebs and Janel | 6:00       |
| Chalice Lighting/Opening Words                                                            | Barbara         | 6:15       |
| Circle of Connection: Gratitude<br>Do you have any feelings concerning gratitude tonight? | Beth - Start    | 6:20       |
| Approval of the Minutes                                                                   | Leta            | 6:30       |

|                                                |                   |      |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------|
| Board Member and Stewardship Committee Updates | David and Barbara | 6:35 |
| SOUUL Summit - Reflections and Feelings        | Bryce - Start     | 6:40 |
| Article II Discussion Update                   | Dave S.           | 7:00 |
| UU the Vote - Are we interested as the Board?  | David             | 7:15 |

**II. The Work of the Board**

|                         |            |      |
|-------------------------|------------|------|
| Executive Report        | Rev. Taryn | 7:25 |
| Finance                 | Dave       | 7:45 |
| Stewardship Committee   | Janel      | 8:00 |
| Call Process Task Force | Leta       | 8:10 |
| Nominating Committee    | Barbara    | 8:30 |
| HRC Committee           | Beth       | 8:35 |
| ARAOMAC Committee       | Terry      | 8:45 |

**III. Closing**

|                                                                                                                                  |  |      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|------|
| Process Observer for the April Meeting<br>Next Meeting: Scheduled for April 23, 2024<br><br>Chalice Lighter:<br>Dinner provider: |  | 8:50 |
| Closing Words/Extinguishing the Chalice                                                                                          |  | 8:55 |

