

Board of Trustees

MEETING: December 6, 2019, 8:00 pm, Eastern Time

Pursuant to notice duly given, this meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Association was held via Zoom conferencing.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kathy Burek, Pablo deVos-Deak (youth trustee), Suzanne Fast, Susan Frederick-Gray (President), Mr. Barb Greve (Co-Moderator), Sarah Dan Jones, Sherman Logan, Leslie MacFadyen, Manish Mishra-Marzetti, Patrick McLaughlin, John Newhall, Lucia Santini Field (Financial Advisor), Elandria Williams (Co-Moderator)

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS: Carey McDonald (Recording Secretary & Executive Vice President), Andrew McGeorge (Treasurer), Leslie Takahashi, Linnea Nelson, Bill Young, Elaine McArdle, Debra Boyd, Kim Hampton, Mary Heafy

Meeting Minutes

Vice Moderator John Newhall opened the meeting at 8:04 pm, and led an opening chalice lighting. Members and participants offered a brief personal check-in.

Consent Agenda

Patrick McLaughlin moved, John Newhall seconded, and the Board unanimously approved the consent agenda, which consisted of the minutes from the October Board meeting.

Financial Secretary's report

Kathy Burek described the work of the Values and Resources Alignment Working Group, asked for feedback on the working group planning document.

Article II Working Group report

Patrick McLaughlin and Greg Boyd noted they are revising the charge to the upcoming Article II Working Group. They noted that the proposed timeline based on Bylaw requirements is complicated by the goal of transparency and the need make it possible for a wide number of UUs to engage the process. Discussion and finalizing this charge will be a part of January Board meeting.

Orientation manual

Kathy Burek and Stephanie Carey Maron are working on revisions to the Board orientation manual and will submit revisions at an upcoming Board meeting.



MOCHA/BCTI Chart (Board roles)

Board members were asked to review an updated version of the roles and responsibilities chart, so that the Co-Moderators can finalize an updated/combined chart in the near future.

Commission on Institutional Change report

Leslie Takahashi gave an update from the Commission on Institutional Change (COIC). She noted that the COIC is working on completing its written report in time to be published by General Assembly, which they hope to be able to send to everyone. COIC members will join January Board meeting virtually to discuss some final questions arising from the Commission's report.

She shared that the COIC is focused on the outreach and dissemination strategies for the COIC's report. She noted that the COIC has done outreach to some groups which have been critical of the UUA's approach to anti-racism work to invite them to share their perspectives as part of the Commission's information gathering. The COIC will host a series of workshops at General Assembly, filming as many as possible to share online afterwards. COIC members also joined an episode of The VUU, and may do so again in the Spring.

MFC Meeting Report

Patrick McLaughlin, Sherman Logan, and Elandria Williams reported back from their attendance at the December meeting of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC), where they sat in on business meetings and on panel interviews of ministerial candidates. They confirmed that the MFC members are dedicated, committed, skilled, and hard-working, and also that the MFC continues on its path to reexamine its culture to address historic and current problems.

Board members noted the MFC's real focus on care for candidates, without the sense of anxiety that has been present at in the past. They also described their work to extend that care to their peer colleagues as members on the committee, given the demanding workload for the MFC, especially for Executive Committee members in their role addressing misconduct cases.

MFC members are having an active conversation about how they want to change the way they operate, including looking at its procedures captured in "The Ways of the MFC." New ideas around ministerial fellowship are being explored through the Shared Ethics Approach project with other professional groups, as well as discussions led by the Commission on Institutional Change. The MFC has also requested the Board take action in the past few years to approve changes to MFC policies and support amendments to the UUA bylaws. Board members noted the need for ongoing discussion of the distinct roles of the Board and the MFC as a committee of the Board in how policy changes are addressed and how they work together.

UU the Vote

Executive Vice President Carey McDonald shared an update on the UU the Vote initiative. The UUA had a successful Giving Tuesday fundraiser with the UU the Vote soft launch as a focus. Board members were asked to join the January 12 full launch webinar and encourage their congregations to host a watch party. More



details on the UU the Vote initiative will be shared upcoming Board meetings as it gets fully underway.

Murray Grove Association Distribution

Treasurer Andrew McGeorge summarized the request for the Board to approve a 25% distribution of the Murray Grove Fund, a trust managed by the UUA, to fund a capital campaign of the Murray Grove Association (MGA). Board members supported the direction of a capital campaign at the Murray Grove retreat center, and encouraged the MGA to take concerns about accessibility for attendees seriously in their plans. Kathy Burek moved, Sarah Dan Jones seconded, and the Board unanimously approved the distribution motion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:57 pm, Board members moved into Executive Session for the purpose of considering appointments. The following appointment was later reported:

Genevieve Baldwin was appointed to fill the remaining term of Youth Trustee on the Board until June 2021.

The meeting ended at 10:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Carey McDonald

Recording Secretary

