

# Board of Trustees

**MEETING: June 23-24, 2020**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Genevieve Baldwin (youth trustee), Greg Boyd, Kathy Burek, Pablo de Vos-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), Tom Schade, Elandria Williams (Co-Moderator)

## Meeting Minutes

**ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS:** Carey McDonald (Recording Secretary & Executive Vice President), Andrew McGeorge (Treasurer), Stephanie Carey Maron, Brent Lewis, Meg Riley, Charles Du Mond, Bill Young, Rebecca Throop, Barbara de Leeuw, Elias Ortega, Marcus Fogliano, Leslie Takahashi, Danielle Di Bona and Chris Buice (Chaplains), Elaine McArdle, Debra Boyd

**TUESDAY, JUNE 23**

### Opening

Co-Moderator Mr. Barb Greve and Elandria Williams opened the meeting at 12:05 pm with a brief personal check in from members and observers (went till 12:45). Chris Buice offered a prayer.

### Consent Agenda

Lucia Santini-Field moved, John Newhall seconded and the Board unanimously approved the consent agenda. This included minutes from the May 11, May 18, June 1, June 8 and June 15 Board meetings.

### Reviewing Board Accomplishments

Board members discussed their accomplishments of the past year (Appendix 1).

### FY20 Ending Balance Resolution

Executive Vice President Carey McDonald reviewed a proposed resolution to restrict an amount from the UUA's FY20 operating budget for use in implementing recommendations from the Commission on Institutional Change and supporting shifts with General Assembly.

Members suggested restricting the entire ending balance to COIC recommendations, with some reserved for support GA. It should include a floor



minimum for COIC implementation, and include budget estimates. Carey agreed to submit a revised motion for approval later in the week.

### **Resolution on the US President**

Members considered a draft resolution which included a call for Donald Trump to leave office, noting that the Movement for Black Lives is going to ramp up point as one of a three part set of demands, the others being to defund the police and invest in Black communities. Board members noted they want to engage the General Assembly in this conversation, there are risks they take on which they need to understand, up to and including consideration of tax status. Staff agreed to review with legal counsel and suggest language revisions.

The meeting took a break at 1:50 pm, returned at 2:00 pm.

### **General Assembly Preparations**

Board members reviewed roles and plans for General Assembly, including for General Session.

The meeting closed at 3:00 pm.

### **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24**

The meeting convened at 4:35 pm with an opening reading by chaplains

### **Resolution on Movement for Black Lives Demands**

Board members reviewed the resolution considered the previous day regarding the US President, now clarified and reframed around support for the Movement for Black Lives' June 19 demands. Members discussed whether the Board's adoption a social witness statement was in tension with the GA's Action of Immediate Witness process, and agreed to add additional language about the impacts of the President's leadership on disabled people, indigenous communities, and other groups. The Board unanimously affirmed the revised language to move forward for presentation with the General Assembly (Appendix 2).

### **Consent Agenda**

Kathy Burek moved, John Newhall seconded, and the Board unanimously approved the consent agenda, which included April Board meeting minutes and preliminary approval the resolution restricting the FY20 ending balance.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board moved to Executive Session at 5:30 pm for sharing personal gratitude for departing Board members.

The meeting ended at 6:25.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Carey McDonald

Recording Secretary



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES SCHEDULE

- **Meetings: June 2020, Zoom Meeting**  
Monday, June 29, 2020
- **Meetings: July 2020, Zoom Meeting**  
Monday, July 13, 2020; 8:00pm Eastern
- **Meetings: August 2020, Zoom Meeting**  
Monday, August 10, 2020; 8:00pm Eastern
- **Meetings: September 2020, Zoom Meeting**  
Monday, September 14, 2020; 8:00pm Eastern
- **Meeting: October 2020, Zoom Meeting**  
Wednesday, October 14 – Saturday, October 17, 2020
- **Meetings: November 2020, Zoom Meeting**  
Monday, November 9, 2020; 8:00pm Eastern
- **Meetings: December 2020, Zoom Meeting**  
Monday, December 14, 2020; 8:00pm Eastern
- **Meeting: January 2021, Zoom Meeting**  
Friday, January 22 – Saturday, January 23, 2021
- **Meetings: February 2021, Zoom Meeting**  
Monday, February 8, 2021; 8:00pm Eastern
- **Meetings: March 2021, Zoom Meeting**  
Monday, March 8, 2021; 8:00pm Eastern
- **Meeting: April 2021, Zoom Meeting**  
Friday, April 22 – Saturday, April 23, 2021
- **Meetings: May 2021, Zoom Meeting**  
Monday, May 10, 2021; 8:00pm Eastern
- **Meetings: June 2021, Milwaukee, WI**  
Tuesday, June 22 – Wednesday, June 23, 2021: Board of Trustees Meeting  
Wednesday, June 23 – Sunday June 27, 2021: General Assembly  
Monday, June 27, 2021: Board of Trustees Meeting



## Appendix 1 – Board Accomplishments 2019-20

- Beautiful to watch Board’s transformation to a group that works faithfully and collaboratively with love and trust to fulfill its duties
- Nomination of co-moderators, approval of COIC reports, make it thru a difficult year
- Provide orientation to incoming Board members
- Created VRAWG, great innovative approach to Finance Committee, and made progress in funding the COIC recommendations
- Included COIC in Board meetings, moved through conflict and miscommunication when it arose; would like to see shift to article II commission can also participate in Board meetings in a similar way
- Begun to figure out co-leadership, both for co-moderators and for getting the Board to share work as a whole
- Shift has occurred to new ways of doing business
- Still have more to do with compensation and reimbursement of lost wages, much has already been done
- Can do more to mentor new Board members
- Did some successful negotiation with key stakeholder groups, but it also fell apart
- Information or needs/questions have come to the Board table more smoothly, so things don’t get bottlenecked with the co-moderators
- Did a lot of things that Barb and E said they wanted to do when they started three years ago, have been responsive but also want to hold on to good process, reflect and discern
- Still need to help people understand they don’t need to kick down the door, people are coming at the Board in some ways b/c they know people are there who will listen; next Board will need to institutionalize this
- We’re in the middle of culture change, some people want to turn back the clock and we also haven’t arrived yet
- Sharing moderatorship of GA business sessions, models a different type of leadership for delegates
- Board needs to get clearer about what constitutes a conflict of interest and how they are addressed



## Appendix 2 – UUA Board answers urgent call to support the Movement for Black Lives

As Unitarian Universalists, we affirm the inherent worth and dignity of all people as a core principle of our faith. When the dignity and worth of Black lives is under direct threat in every community from disproportionate infections from COVID-19, from police violence, from economic insecurity and collective trauma, we must take action. In the past five years, the Unitarian Universalist Association has committed to dismantling white supremacy and patriarchy, has proclaimed its support for the Black Lives Matter movement, has provided over \$5 million in direct funding to Black Lives UU, has worked to expand sanctuary and decriminalize Black and brown, immigrant and Indigenous communities, and has flanked Black-led movement organizing to end the oppressive systems of policing, mass incarceration and detention. To continue on this path to liberation, the UUA Board is called to support the Six Nineteen Demands to Defend Black Lives released by the Movement for Black Lives, which are the following:

1. **Defund the Police** – Shrink police budgets to end the anti-Black, oppressive paradigm of militarized policing, and instead support social services that provide for true community safety and wellbeing.
2. **Invest in Black Communities** – Direct immediate resources towards community owned and run solutions that provide mental health, medical care, education, housing and economic justice.
3. **Call for the resignation of Donald Trump** – President Trump has used his office to support white supremacy within and beyond government, calling for police violence against protesters while undermining public health responses to the COVID-19 pandemic that is killing Black people every day.

In addition, we acknowledge that President Trump has:

- Repeatedly and regularly lied to the American people, and
- Failed to address the economic crisis caused by the pandemic and his policies, and
- Unlawfully used and called for the use of the Armed Forces of the United States of America against the sovereign People of the nation, and
- Is encouraging and assisting in defunding education, and
- Enacted violence to the lands that belong to the People; permitting the destruction of irrecoverable natural beauty, vital resources for life, and sacred places, and
- Sought to legalize and institutionalize discrimination against LGBTQ people, and
- Willfully deprived Indigenous tribal governments and peoples of access to COVID stimulus monies designated for their benefit, and
- Attempted to undercut and erode the protections of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

We, the Board of the Unitarian Universalist Association therefore demand that Donald John Trump be held accountable for his words and actions, and we call for the immediate resignation of Donald John Trump, or his removal from office by any legal means. The UUA Board commits to supporting, educating, organizing, resourcing and mobilizing our congregations and members to advance these demands. Our principled commitment to justice, equity and compassion demands nothing less.

