

Board of Trustees

MEETING: March 8, 2021, 7:45, 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: Genevieve Baldwin (youth trustee), Greg Boyd, Kathy Burek, Barbara de Leeuw, Charles Du Mond (Co-Moderator), Suzanne Fast, Susan Frederick-Gray (President), Sherman Logan, Patrick McLaughlin, John Newhall, Lucia Santini Field (Financial Advisor), Meg Riley (Co-Moderator), Tom Schade, Rebecca Throop (youth trustee), Bill Young

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS: Carey McDonald (Recording Secretary & Executive Vice President), Andrew McGeorge (Treasurer), Stephanie Carey Maron, Marcus Fogliano, Danielle DiBona (chaplain), Larry Ladd, Stephanie Samson, Laura Conkle, Mary Heafy, Debra Boyd, Sam Trumbore, Janette Lallier, Becky Brooks

Meeting Minutes

Co-Moderator Meg Riley meeting opened at 7:45 pm with a reading, followed by brief personal check-ins from participants in small groups.

Bylaw amendments

Barbara de Leeuw shared an update from the bylaws Deep Divers group. She reiterated the overall commitments by the Board to dismantling white supremacy, implementing the recommendations of the Commission on Institutional Change, and drawing on the work of past UUA governance commissions. Recognizing that bylaws are foundational legal document that clarifies core goals, purposes and boundaries, rather than a set of detailed implementation guidelines which should live elsewhere in policy, she noted a key goal for future bylaw revisions is to allow for flexibility and adaptability in the UUA's operations moving forward.

In reviewing the suggested bylaw changes to the presidential selection process, the Board unanimously affirmed the following changes, with the text expected for final approval at the next meeting:

- Allowing the Presidential Search Committee to nominate “one or more candidates,” rather than requiring a competitive election of two or more nominations (parallel to current language for nomination of the Moderator)
- Moving the PSC nomination deadline to November 15 from February 1 of the year before the election, to make the campaign shorter and more accessible
- Conforming changes to Rule G-9.13.7, updating language and timelines

With a shorter campaign timeline, the Board affirmed the need to have a detailed schedule for the Presidential Search Committee process in place in order to meet the nomination deadline.



Separately, the Board unanimously affirmed the requested amendment by the Commission on Social Witness to allow Actions of Immediate Witness to be submitted before General Assembly in manner proscribed by the CSW.

General Assembly Planning

The Moderation Team (Mod Squad) of Board members who will be leading the discussion and voting at GA business sessions was defined as Suzanne Fast, Kathy Burek, Genevieve Baldwin, Greg Boyd, John Newhall, Tom Schade, and Co-Moderators Riley and Charles Du Mond.

Kathy Burek reported she is working on updates to the GA Rules of Procedure, and will be convening a meeting with the Mod Squad and the parliamentarian and legal counsel to review potential changes.

Co-Moderator Riley noted the Co-Moderators are working with Executive Assistant Stephanie Carey Maron on preparing the GA business agenda and plan for general sessions.

Commission on Social Witness

John Newhall described his meeting with members of the CSW, who are reconsidering their role as a commission. John described the need for the Board to clarify what it expects or hopes for the CSW's role, and how it should communicate with the Board. Executive Vice President Carey McDonald noted that UUA staff have been exploring possibilities to collaborate with CSW members to represent the UUA at social witness events. Discussion recognized the need for further conversation with the CSW as part of the streamlining and reimagining of UUA governance that the COIC had recommended.

Article II Study Commission

Becky Brooks from the A2SC reported that the group is currently planning for stakeholder outreach around key questions as the first phase of public conversation, and preparing for their presentations at General Assembly.

Design Team

Suzanne Fast shared a brief update from the Design Team for the Board's COIC implementation, including planning for an ongoing accountability group.

Discussions via Slack

Board members considered how to best have discussions over Slack in between Board meetings. They noted that sometimes there is need for quick feedback Board members on a particular question, and that having to wait for synchronous, in-person conversation at monthly meetings can be too long to wait and there may not be enough room on meeting agendas.

They agreed to allow preliminary discussion on Slack of Board issues when there is an intent to bring the issue to a Board meeting for any decisions, or to allow for final review/approval via Slack when something has already been discussed in a meeting. They also agreed to avoid or pause discussions where members are debating, and to follow other practices that allow Board members to be included in Slack exchanges (e.g. waiting for 24-48 hours for responses rather than expecting quick responses).



EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board moved to executive session at 9:20 pm for the purpose of considering appointments and discussing Board liaison roles.

The meeting ended at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Carey McDonald

Recording Secretary

