

Board of Trustees

MEETING: June 22, 2021, 1:00 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: Genevieve Baldwin (youth trustee), Greg Boyd, Kathy Burek, Barbara de Leeuw, Charles Du Mond (Co-Moderator), Suzanne Fast, Susan Frederick-Gray (President), Sherman Logan, Leslie MacFadyen, 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, Chris Buice and Danielle Di Bona (chaplains), Marcus Fogliano, Anna Bethea, Brent Lewis, Sara Green, Jennica Davis-Hockett, Meg Richardson, Laura Conkle, Cathy Seggel, Sam Trumbore

Meeting Minutes

Co-Moderator Meg Riley opened the meeting at 1:05 pm, participants did a brief check in in small groups.

Consent Agenda

The Board deferred decisions on the consent agenda.

Youth Ministry Update

UUA staff Jennica Davis-Hockett, Sara Green, Anna Bethea, and Carey McDonald gave a presentation on UUA national youth ministry in the past year. This included a report out from youth ministry visioning week in March, changes to GA Youth programs and staff structure, support for youth in leadership positions, adapting youth programs during the pandemic, and a summary of the UUA budget investment in youth ministry.

Discussion noted that congregations are having lower youth engagement during the pandemic. Mirroring declines in religious education enrollment overall, members agreed on the need to create accessible multi-platform communities that can offer faith engagement on demand. Discussion also highlighted the importance of investing in the phase of early adulthood after bridging from youth programs, and the growing need for programs specifically for BIPOC, trans/non-binary and queer youth. Staff described the ongoing efforts to bring together the various UUA youth programs and events under a single national umbrella with multiple, easy entry points.

Following up on the GA 2020 responsive resolution on youth and young adult ministry, staff noted they are increasing communication, alignment, transparency, in addition to the work included in the presentation. They also affirmed the need to be responsive to the current leadership of youth and young adults, rather than relying



on a previous statement of the General Assembly. They noted the push to change GA business meetings to have a sliding scale registration structure was an example of what has come out of these current conversations.

Board members extended their thanks to the UUA youth ministry staff for their hard work in the past year.

UUA Dashboard

President Susan Frederick-Gray presented the annual UUA Dashboard. High level trends were a small decline in membership after three years of plateau, and a sharp drop in religious education enrollment. There was historically strong participation in virtual General Assembly 2020 and in the percent of congregations certifying, showing more engagement overall with the UUA.

Presidential Search Committee

The Board formally announced the members of the Presidential Search Committee who had been recently appointed:

- Nominated positions – Cathy Seggel, Denise Rimes, James Snell, Jamie Dingus, Marva Williams
- Board-appointed positions – Jason Lydon, Theresa Soto

EVP McDonald noted that the PSC had already had a meeting together, and was planning to reconvene later in the summer once the proposed bylaw changes relating to the Presidential nomination process had been decided at this year's GA.

Open UUA Committee

The Board reviewed a request from the Open UUA Committee members to disband the inactive committee. Discussion noted that technology had changed dramatically in the fifteen years since the committee had been created, improving the transparency and accessibility of committee meetings. Members agreed that, regardless of whether the committee continued, it remained important to have ways for interested UUs to participate in the work of the UUA.

The following motion was made by Kathy Burek, seconded by Lucia Santini Field, and unanimously approved by the Board:

MOTION: To disband the Open UUA Committee, once a new way of setting transparency standards for following Rule G-2.1, and supporting UUA boards and committees in following those standards, has been adopted.

General Assembly Registration Rule

Board members noted a drafting error in the GA final agenda item Rule G-4.9.8, which proposed to remove the requirement that the General Assembly business meeting have a registration fee. The rule drafted in error contained the correct language but kept the item a G rule instead of replacing it with a Board-approved rule as originally intended. Rather than considering a way to revise the agenda item, the Board agreed to affirm the agenda as drafted and to talk openly about the issue to model the ability to make mistakes and take responsibility.



Closing

The Board offered a moment of appreciation for departing trustees Greg Boyd, Patrick McLaughlin, Genevieve Baldwin, and Rebecca Throop in their final meeting.

The meeting ended at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Carey McDonald

Recording Secretary

