

Board of Trustees

MEETING: August 9, 2021, 7:00 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, Barbara de Leeuw, Charles Du Mond (Co-Moderator), Susan Frederick-Gray (President), Sherman Logan, Elizabeth Mount, John Newhall, Lucia Santini Field (Financial Advisor), Meg Riley (Co-Moderator), Tom Schade, Sam Trumbore, Leslie MacFadyen

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS: Stephanie Carey Maron, Larry Ladd, Danielle Di Bona (Board Chaplain), Carrie Stewart, Meg Richardson

Meeting Minutes

Co-Moderator Charles Du Mond opened the meeting, Sam Trumbore offered a reading from a book of prayers for world peace, and the Board and guests broke into small break out groups for a 15-minute check-in.

Consent Agenda

The board adopted the consent agenda unanimously. It included minutes from board meetings on May 10, 2021; June 22, 2022; June 28, 2021; July 12, 2021, and minutes from the 2021 General Assembly.

Discussion About General Assembly 2024 in Providence

Co-Moderator Meg Riley led a conversation about a decision-making process for deciding whether to commit to an in-person General Assembly in 2024 in Providence, RI, or lose the security deposit from 2022. The Board needs to make a decision by September 15th to either confirm reservation or cancel. The possibility of asking for a “right of first refusal” and hold onto our tentative reservation for the time being was also discussed.

Board noted that significant accessibility concerns about the Providence Convention Center had been raised.

Board identified key questions and assigned Board members to follow with constituent groups or staff to get input regarding these questions:

- Should we hold GA in Providence in 2024?
- Should GA 2024 be an entirely virtual GA?
- Should UUA have in-person/multiplatform GA every other year?

Groups to reach out to for input: Article 2 Study Commission (Meg Riley), Youth and Young adults (SFG), EqUUal Access (Charles to ask Bill Young), TRUUsT (Elizabeth Mount), BLUU (Leslie), DRUUMM (no one assigned at meeting, SFG volunteered post-meeting).

A suggestion was also made to conduct a survey to get a temperature check on these questions by GA registrants. Susan Frederick-Gray will follow up with LaTonya Richardson about this suggestion.



The Board noted the value in leaving itself the most flexibility, the opportunity of reserving a different convention center and host city if decided at a later time that there is need for an in-person gathering in 2024.

The Board will make a decision at its September 2021 meeting.

Bylaws Group Update

Barbara de Leeuw presented a timeline, pathway, and process for working on a complete review and revision of the bylaws with a strong draft completed and delivered to the Board by December 2021. Between December 2021 and April 2022, the bylaws group would get input from the Board of Trustees and other stakeholders, including wider constituent groups and congregations to provide two more revised drafts to the Board – one in February 2022 and another in April 2022. The April 2022 draft would be to share in advance of GA with delegates and constituents through town hall forums so delegates could be well informed of the changes and the reasons for the changes in advance of GA.

The bylaws revision process will have two small groups working on it. First will be the Deep Divers groups which will include around $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Board members. It will take on big picture questions and decisions. There will also be a smaller writing team that will take discussions and decisions from Deep Divers and work on technical aspects of writing changes and getting legal review.

The next Deep Divers meeting is September 1st at 7 PM Eastern.

Additional Expenditure Proposal

Susan Frederick-Gray brought a proposal from the administration to request approval from the Board to authorize additional spending beyond the FY 22 budget to hire a Climate Justice Organizer to join the Organizing Strategy Team (OST) department at the UUA.

Following the Board practice of not making decisions immediately upon receipt and discussion of requests, the Board decided to wait until its September meeting to make a final decision on the proposed new expenditure. However, the Board did give a green light for staff to continue finalizing the job description and posting the position.

OPEN MEETING ENDED AT 8:37 PM Eastern

Executive Session

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

CLOSED SESSION began at 8:39 PM Eastern

Appointments

The Board approved the appointment of Ida M. Jones to the Election Campaign Practices Committee (ECPC).



Design Team

The Design Team report was tabled until next meeting when Suzanne Fast, co-convenor of the Design Team, could be at the meeting.

Board Liaisons

Meg Riley reported that Sam Trumbore will serve as liaison to the Presidential Search Committee. Further conversations are happening to determine Board liaisons for the Religious Education Credentialing Committee and the General Assembly Planning Committee.

Executive Session Ended 8:59 PM Eastern

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Frederick-Gray
UUA President

on behalf of
/s/ Carey McDonald
Recording Secretary

