

Board of Trustees

MEETING: August 8, 2022, 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, Chris Chepel (Co-Financial Advisor), Barbara de Leeuw, Charles Du Mond (Co-Moderator), Suzanne Fast, Susan Frederick-Gray (President), Sherman Logan, Elizabeth Mount, John B. Newhall, JeKaren Olaoya, Meg Riley (Co-Moderator), Adam Robersmith, Justine Sullivan, David Stewart (Co-Financial Advisor), Sam Trumbore, Bill Young (Secretary)

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS: Carey McDonald (Recording Secretary & Executive Vice President), Andrew McGeorge (Treasurer), Stephanie Carey Maron, Shige Sakurai, Chris Buice (chaplain), Darrick Jackson, Stephanie Samson, Mac Goekler, Susan Goekler, Jacqueline Russell, Adrienne York-Minor, David Jackoway, Mr. Barb Greve, Christina Rivera, Sofia Betancourt, Carrie Stewart, Sara Green

Meeting Minutes

Co-Moderator Charles Du Mond opened the meeting at 7:05, noting the Board did not meet in July since there had been so much work in preparation for General Assembly. The Board reviewed its covenant, as adopted in February 2021. Members and participants broke into small groups for a brief personal check-in.

Board members introduced themselves, welcoming new trustees Justine Sullivan and Adam Robersmith, and new Co-Financial Advisors David Stewart and Chris Chepel.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda included the General Assembly 2022 minutes. With two small changes, these were unanimously approved, with Suzanne Fast abstaining.

Resignation Rule

The Board unanimously approved new rules 5.5.1, 7.4.1, and 8.6.1 clarifying the procedure by which elected and appointed UUA leaders may resign, with Suzanne Fast abstaining.

Debriefing General Assembly

What went well?

Overall

- The rapid response to the SCOTUS ruling on abortion rights in the Roe case was smooth, well-prepared. President Susan Frederick-Gray had good comments at beginning of General Session that day were important, and she then represented us in the community at the larger Portland event.



- The Ware Lecture, an interview format with Dr. Ibram Kendi, was relevant and well-received.
- Worship and music created wonderful experiences, and represented years of collaboration with the Association of UU Music Ministries.
- Theological content during General Sessions was really valuable.
- The schedule worked well: the pacing of this GA was more spacious, which helped attendees build relationships and not get overwhelmed. The time of day was a useful late start in the day was useful for Eastern time zones.
- Our new production company was excellent to work with.

Business

- Delegates were enthusiastic and energetic, including overwhelming support for a Business Resolution affirming future bylaw changes.
- Making changes to the rules of procedure and doing the procedural work of business in advance made for streamlined experience during General Sessions, and created time on the schedule for the Article II Study Commission.
- Discuss.uua.org was a good resource we can cultivate more in future years.
- Having the mini-assembly before GA was a game changer.
- Voting online via the delegate platform was smooth and accessible.
- Separate delegate registration was important for economic accessibility.

Board's role

- No Board meeting before GA was really helpful for giving the Trustees the time they needed to fully participate in GA.
- Daily Board check-ins worked well.

What can we improve?

Accessibility and Participation

- Online access and tech for programs outside Main Hall was not great.
- Need more community for online participants; e.g. virtual participants in the General Sessions wanted breakout groups.
- Congregations could have sent more delegates, how do we get the word out better?
- May want to track COVID stats post-GA, the risk of being there ended up being higher than anticipated for some attendees; how do we help attendees who have to isolate post-GA and incur costs?
- How can we help participants find and access the information they need in real time? There is a lot of content to sort through, how do we do wayfinding?

Business Process

- Recommend fewer pre-GA webinars for next year.
- The structure for mini-assemblies could be improved, such as giving more time after delegates submit amendments for the Board to review them.
- Should explicitly include in the Rules of Procedure the ability of the Board to propose amendments after the mini-assembly.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board moved to executive session at 8:15 pm for the purpose of considering appointments. It was later reported that:

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- Sam Trumbore was elected as Financial Secretary for a term of two years
- John Newhall was re-elected vice moderator for a term of two years

The meeting ended at 9:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Carey McDonald

Recording Secretary

