

Board of Trustees

MEETING: May 20, 2024, 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: Sofia Betancourt (President), Chris Chepel (Co-Financial Advisor), Barbara de Leeuw, Charles Du Mond (Co-Moderator), Suzanne Fast, Sherman Logan, Elizabeth Mount, John B. Newhall, JeKaren Olaoya, Meg Riley (Co-Moderator), Adam Robersmith, Justine Sullivan, David Stewart (Co-Financial Advisor), Sam Trumbore (Financial Secretary), Bill Young (Secretary)

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS: Carey McDonald (Recording Secretary and Executive Vice President), Stephanie Carey Maron (Governance Manager), Betty Clark (Executive Assistant to the Executive Vice President and Vice President for Programs and Ministries)

Observers: Amanda Poppei, Carol Gable, Cindy Malley, Dick Burkhart, Connie Hester, Stephanie Samson, Antoinette Scully, Evin Carvill Ziemer, Mia Morse, Jill Sampson, Meg Richardson, Peter Fontneau



Meeting Minutes

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board began its meeting in Executive Session at 7:04 pm ET for the purpose of approving appointments and other sensitive business.

The following appointments and reappointment were later reported:

Appointments

- Accountability Launch Team
 - Dr. Tuli Patel
 - Tim Styer
- Moderator Search Committee
 - Kathy Burek
 - Rev. Katie Romano Griffin
 - Michael Sallwasser
 - Rev. KC Slack

Reappointment

- Co-Financial Advisor Chris Chepel was reappointed for another two-year term, serving alongside elected Co-Financial Advisor David Stewart.

OPEN SESSION

Co-Moderator Du Mond opened the meeting to observers at 8:22 pm ET.

Ministerial Fellowship Committee Rule Change

Trustee Sherman Logan welcomed Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC) members Rev. Amanda Poppei and Cindy Malley who explained the reasoning behind the request for the desired language change around the required reading lists (Rule 11).

With this change, each candidate is responsible for creating their own list of educational resources that they have used under each competency. They are encouraged to not only list books, but other sources of knowledge such as podcasts, seminars, videos, movies, etc. This change launches June 1st. Currently, under Rule 11 General Qualifications, the second bullet point reads, “have completed the required readings.” As of June 1st, this wording becomes confusing to candidates since there will no longer be required reading checkoff lists.

President Betancourt questioned why the change is necessary. She noted that, in her opinion, the creation of the lists is insufficient because the intent is not solely that students document what they’ve already read or learned in seminary, but that they have been fully engaged in what they’ve listed.

Trustees emphasized the importance of including language like “fully engaged with” or “completed the engagement with,” to clarify expectations.

There was agreement that the MFC would submit the new language to Justine, Sherman, and Charles by no later than one week before the next meeting, and that Charles will organize a small discussion meeting to follow.

General Assembly 2024

Religious Education Credentialing Committee Bylaw Amendment

JeKaren Olaoya moved, Barbara de Leeuw seconded, and the Board unanimously approved adding the Religious Education Credentialing Committee’s proposal to amend the bylaws to adjust the committee to no fewer than 7 members, to the final agenda.

Rules of Procedure

Justine Sullivan moved, John B. Newhall seconded, and the Board unanimously approved the 2024 Rules of Procedure to be added to the Final Agenda.

Business Resolution

Barbara de Leeuw moved, David Stewart seconded, and the Board unanimously approved adding the proposed business resolution, *Affirming Transgender, Nonbinary, Intersex and Gender Diverse People as a Fundamental Expression of UU Religious Values*, to the Final Agenda.



Final Agenda for General Assembly 2024

Suzanne Fast moved, Adam Robersmith seconded, and the Board unanimously approved Final Agenda for General Assembly 2024.

In addition, Bill Young moved, David Stewart seconded, and the Board unanimously approved the Statement in Support of the Final Proposed Version of Article II (Appendix 1).

Board Member Roles During General Sessions

Adam Robersmith and JeKaren Olaoya volunteered to manage the morning GA Cohorts, and Justine Sullivan and Elizabeth Mount volunteered to manage the evening GA Cohorts.

The following trustees agreed to monitor the three discussion rooms throughout the following general sessions, and report back to the ModSquad with any issues that arise:

- General Session I – Amanda Weatherspoon
- General Session II – Elizabeth Mount
- General Session III – Justine Sullivan
- General Session IV – Adam Robersmith

Co-Moderator Du Mond noted that he will assign general session moderation roles to the members of the ModSquad.

Capital and Consolidated Budgets

EVP Carey McDonald presented the UUA's consolidated FY 2025 budgets, following approval at the April board meeting of the FY25 operating budget.

The Board needed more time to review the financial documents so it decided to move a vote on this to the June 10, 2024 board meeting agenda.

The meeting ended 9:18 pm ET.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Carey McDonald

Recording Secretary



Appendix 1

UUA Board of Trustees Statement on the Article II Proposal

In 2020, as required in the Association's Bylaws, the UUA Board of Trustees chartered the Article II Study Commission to thoroughly review Article II and to propose changes which best reflect our faith's evolution and anticipate the future. The Board recognizes and appreciates the extent and depth of work which the Commission has done over the last four years. We also recognize and appreciate the many conversations which have been happening in congregations, to both expand understanding and prepare for General Assembly 2024. Over the last few years there have been more people engaged in more conversations about Article II than there have been in decades. We are thrilled that so many people engaged in the important task of thinking about what it means to be Unitarian Universalists, now and into the future

There will be discussions and votes at General Assembly 2024 on both the final Article II proposal and four proposed amendments to it. We trust that congregations' delegates will come prepared for these discussions and votes, including the perspectives and preferences of the congregations they represent.

The UUA Board of Trustees supports the passage of the final proposal of the Article II Study Commission. With the use of democratic processes at General Assembly 2024, whichever way the vote goes the Board remains prepared and excited to serve our faith.