

# Board of Trustees

**MEETING: June 10, 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, John B. Newhall, Meg Riley (Co-Moderator), Adam Robersmith, David Stewart (Co-Financial Advisor), Justine Sullivan, 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), Board Chaplains Danielle Di Bona and Chris Buice

**Observers:** Karin Fuog, Nancy Sarro, Cathy Seggel, David Jackoway, Stephanie Samson, Meg Richardson, Don DeStephano

## Meeting Minutes

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board began its meeting in Executive Session at 7:01 pm ET for the purpose of approving appointments and other sensitive business.

The following appointment was later reported:

#### *Appointments*

- Moderator Search Committee
  - Chloe Emily Ockey

### OPEN SESSION

Co-Moderator Du Mond opened the meeting to observers at 8:03 pm ET, and President Betancourt recognized the life and work of Jacqui James who died recently.

### Consent Agenda

The consent agenda was unanimously approved, and included minutes from the April and May board meetings, and General Assembly 2023.

### Ministerial Fellowship Committee Rule Change

Under Rule #11- General Qualifications, it currently reads "have completed the required readings"



The MFC would like it to be changed to: "have fully engaged with, understood, and completed all of the items in their self-created Educational Resource lists."

Sherman moved and Bill seconded that we make the rule change.

### **Capital and Consolidated Budgets**

Chris moved the approval of the capital and consolidated budget and Sam seconded. Passed unanimously.

### **UUA Policy on Congregational Life Cycle – Mergers and Dissolutions**

Co-Moderator Du Mond brought forward a proposed policy aimed at managing the life cycles of congregations, including mergers, dissolutions, and the distribution of congregation's assets. The policy specifies that assets of dissolving congregations should be returned to the UUA and distributed among various funds and groups, including the UU New Communities fund, the UUA's Common Endowment Fund, and nearby UU congregations or other UU groups. The policy allows for exceptions in certain circumstances. The adoption of this policy was prompted by the increasing occurrences of mergers and dissolutions, with four congregations currently dissolving and more expected in the following year.

Suzanne moved and Barbara seconded. The policy was adopted unanimously.

### **Disposition of the UU Congregation in Andover's Assets**

President Betancourt acknowledged the grief over congregations changing or dissolving their ministries. The EVP McDonald presented a motion, approved by both the UU Congregation in Andover and the North Parish UU Church, to use Andover's existing endowment accounts and proceeds from the sale of its building to benefit North Parish in North Andover. Half the funds would be held in trust by the UUA, and half transferred directly to North Parish's endowment.

Karin Fuog and Nancy Sarro spoke on behalf of their congregations, and gave their thanks and appreciation for the policy previously introduced.

John moved to endorse the proposed distribution of assets from the dissolution of the UU Congregation in Andover, and to honor the congregation's generations of faithful ministry in our Association.

Sherman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **General Assembly 2024**

#### *Consent Agenda*

Co-Moderator Du Mond proposed putting the proposed bylaw change to the Religious Education Credentialing Committee in a consent agenda. Despite previous failures, Charles believed this strategy could streamline decision-making processes at general sessions.

#### *Rules of Procedure*

The Board discussed a proposed change to the rules of procedure which would allow the original proposer of a motion to have the last 90 seconds to respond, correct misinformation, or provide additional insights. Co-Moderator Du Mond



clarified that if the proposer declined this opportunity, the time would be returned to the floor for another speaker. This idea was met with mixed feelings, with some expressing concern about it potentially causing further divisions. The team agreed to practice this new rule and evaluate its effectiveness for future meetings.

Barbara moved to incorporate this amendment and David reluctantly seconded the motion. Approved with two abstentions.

Note: This amendment will not extend the time limits.

#### *Business Resolution*

The board approved two amendments to the business resolution. The first amendment, proposed by Tim Atkins, was to add an action item for UUA member congregations to engage with communities in oppressive states. The other amendment changed the title of the resolution. Both amendments passed with high positive votes from a previous mini assembly. The decision to incorporate these amendments was made to free up time in the current session for discussions on other topics.

Bill moved that we incorporate the amendments to the business resolution. Justine seconded. Approved with 2 abstentions.

#### *Cohort Leaders*

The Cohort Team, led by Adam, shared that the schedule for the Board Cohorts at GA 2024 is in place for all three days. Additional board folks were encouraged to join the two sessions on day three.

The meeting ended 9:21 pm ET with closing words by Jacqui James.



Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Carey McDonald

Recording Secretary