

Board of Trustees

MEETING: March 10, 2025, 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: Chris Chepel (Co-Financial Advisor), Barbara de Leeuw, Charles Du Mond (Co-Moderator), Suzanne Fast, Emily Koriath, Sherman Logan, John B. Newhall, Meg Riley (Co-Moderator), Adam Robersmith, John Simmonds (Secretary), David Stewart (Co-Financial Advisor), Justine Sullivan, Sam Trumbore (Financial Secretary), Amanda Weatherspoon, Bill Young

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS: Carey McDonald (Recording Secretary & Executive Vice President), Stephanie Carey Maron (Governance Manager), Betty Clark (Executive Assistant to the Executive Vice President and Vice President of Programs and Ministry), Danielle Di Bona and Chris Buice (chaplains), Kimberly Quinn Johnson, Natasha Walker (moderator candidates)



Meeting Minutes

OPEN SESSION

Co-Moderator Du Mond opened the meeting to observers at 7:06 pm ET, and Board Chaplain Danielle Di Bona shared an opening reading.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda was approved with one abstention, and included minutes from the January 17-18, 2025 board meeting.

National Leadership Development and Recruitment Update

Jessica York, Director of Congregational Life, shared their report, which focused on the work done over the last two years by the Leadership Ministry Associate, Woullard Lett, in consultation with York. The report highlighted the need for more support for lay leaders and the establishment of a Lay Ministry Network. The Network would aim to connect leaders, provide support, and offer opportunities for leadership development.

York shared that the governance-first mode of engaging volunteers is not working right now. Potential volunteers do not want to put their valuable volunteer and lay ministry time into governance. She wondered how we might “make it possible for volunteers to live out the ministry they’ve been dreaming up.” She shared that a model wherein leaders support and build relationships with each other may be a promising route to a productive volunteer pipeline. She envisions a three-year cohort program which would train and develop leaders, create deep relationships, and provide avenues for reflection, etc.

York also discussed the need for standardizing leadership schools across all regions and the potential for reinvesting in a program of denominational affairs.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board began its meeting in Executive Session at 8:10 pm ET for the purpose of approving appointments and other sensitive business.

The following appointments were approved:

- Accountability Team (2-year term)
 - Rob Spirko
- Election Campaign Practices Committee (2-year term)
 - Oscar Sinclair

Board Chaplain Di Bona shared a final reading and the meeting ended at 9:02 pm ET.



Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Carey McDonald

Recording Secretary