

Board of Trustees

MEETING: May 11, 2020, 8:00 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: Genevieve Baldwin (youth trustee), Greg Boyd, Kathy Burek, Pablo de os-Deak (youth trustee), Suzanne Fast, Susan Frederick-Gray (President), Mr. Barb Greve (Co-Moderator), Sarah Dan Jones, Sherman Logan, Leslie MacFadyen, Manish Mishra-Marzetti, Patrick McLaughlin, John Newhall, Lucia Santini Field (Financial Advisor), Tom Schade, Elandria Williams (Co-Moderator)

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS: Carey McDonald (Recording Secretary & Executive Vice President), Andrew McGeorge (Treasurer), Charles Du Mond, Ben Gabel, Carrie Stewart, Rebecca Throop, Barbara de Leeuw, Bill Young, Leslie Takahashi, Mary Byron, Cir L'Bert Jr., Elias Ortega, Marcus Fogliano, Danielle Di Bona, Debra Boyd

Meeting Minutes

Co-Moderator Elandria Williams opened the meeting at 8:05 pm. Members and participants offered a brief personal check in and a word of appreciation for the Commission on Institutional Change's report.

Proposed Bylaw Amendments

Co-Moderator Vacancies – Of the options for addressing what happens when a member of a co-moderator team leaves their role, Board members agreed that the bylaw text should be as simple and straightforward as possible. Board members noted that since co-moderators were elected as a team, if one leaves then the team must vacate the office. The Board unanimously affirmed putting this bylaw amendment as drafted on the General Assembly business agenda.

Nominating Committee Timeline – Discussion noted the need for more practical timelines in the course of the church year, since processes can move faster online than relying on paper and mail distribution. In conversation with legal counsel following the meeting, it was clarified that this does not affect the numbering system for Board nominations, nor allow adults to be nominated in a youth trustee position. The Board unanimously affirmed putting this bylaw amendment as drafted on the General Assembly business agenda.

General Assembly

Board members agreed to support the following tasks for GA preparation:

- GA Prep Webinars – Kathy Burek, Leslie Mac, Patrick McLaughlin, Greg Boyd, Lucia Santini-Field, John Newhall, Pablo de vos Deak, Genevieve Baldwin



- Board Report (prerecorded) – Sarah Dan Jones, Pablo de vos Deak, Genevieve Baldwin
- Debate Team – Suzanne Fast, Kathy Burek, Greg Boyd, John Newhall, Elandria Williams, Barb Greve

Rules of Procedure

In reviewing the GA2020 draft rules of procedure, members noted that shifts in the rules to align with virtual delegate portal, such as referring to Pro or Con “queues” rather than “mics,” combining the amendment/procedure mic, and making it possible to pre-submit video statements on business items.

Discussion raised the question of why there are explicit structures in the rules to allow delegates to call the question, which has caused problems in prior years. In conversation with legal counsel and the parliamentarian after the meeting, it was recognized that it is important to provide structure around a motion to call the previous question, since it is a frequently used part of Robert’s Rules.

The Board unanimously affirmed the Rules of Procedure as drafted to be put on the General Assembly business agenda, pending any final review and edits from legal counsel and the parliamentarian.

General Assembly Schedule

The Board affirmed the current draft of the updated GA schedule grid, to be finalized in the coming week.

Commission on Institutional Change Report

Leslie Takahashi shared highlights and priorities from the COIC’s report and recommendations. These included:

- Form an Association-level accountability group, which includes a direct connection to the Board, avoids tokenism, and is accountable to groups rather than individuals
- Encourage congregational groups connected to Diverse and Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM)
- Form a specialized team to engage conflict in congregations
- Provide educational resources for liberation, including theological resources for marginalized communities, comprehensive anti-racism training modeled on the Welcoming Congregations or Our Whole Lives program, and intentional opportunities for leadership for marginalized folx
- Review regional governance and leadership experiences and opportunities
- Invest in innovation, work with funders to provide grants, encourage congregations to fund innovation by Black, Indigenous and People of Color leaders
- Provide administrative support for identity-based groups, scholarships for UUs from marginalized communities, and other forms of systematic support as a form of reparations



The COIC members noted they will brief UUA executive staff and other key groups (such as the Journey Towards Wholeness Transformation Committee) on the report in the coming weeks, and will also schedule a future conversation with the Board.

UUA Recommendation on Virtual Operation for Congregations

President Susan Frederick-Gray shared the UUA's plan to recommend congregations plan to be able to continue virtual operations for the coming year (through May 2021) to prepare for the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, and following the guidance of scientific and public health officials. It was noted that this was advice for congregational leaders, and that UUA events were to be considered through a separate internal process.

Patrick McLaughlin moved, Kathy Burek seconded and, the Board unanimously affirmed this recommendation.

Closing

After a brief check out from members and participants, the meeting ended at 9:30 pm.



Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Carey McDonald

Recording Secretary