

Board of Trustees

MEETING: Monday, September 10, 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: Tim Atkins, Greg Boyd, Kathy Burek, Susan Frederick-Gray (President), Barb Greve (Co-Moderator), Chelsea Hendrix, Sarah Dan Jones, Manish Mishra-Marzetti, Patrick McLaughlin, Denise Rimes, Christina Rivera (Secretary), Lucia Santini Field (Financial Advisor), Elandria Williams (Co-Moderator)

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS: Carey McDonald (Recording Secretary & Executive Vice President), Tim Brennan, Leslie Takahashi, Debra Gray Boyd, Kim Hampton, Annie Scott, Elaine McArdle, Chris Buice

Meeting Minutes

Co-Moderator Elandria Williams opened the meeting at 8:05 pm. After an opening reading, participants shared a personal check-in.



Leslie Takahashi, as chair of the Commission on Institutional Change, offered an update. She noted that DeReau Farrar and Caitlin Breedlove have resigned from the Commission, and will continue to be involved in informal ways. Cir l'Ebert has agreed to join the Commission, and Leslie requested the Board's affirmation. She noted the Commission is bringing 30 people together in early October for a design summit, to plan the process for making space for developing a collective direction for the faith. She reiterated that the Commission will be offering recommendations for how the UUA needs to collect data on the experiences of religious professionals of color, which has not been historically prioritized. Leslie noted that the Commission continues to be committed to conversations around credentialing, and that some members will be going to the December meeting of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee. She shared that a guiding premise has been that if we can create a faith that works well for people at the margins, it will work best for all. Leslie also identified the lack of communication structure for cohesive conversations with congregations as a barrier this year to creating a truly inclusive process.

The Board unanimously agreed to affirm the Commission's ability to appoint any needed members and inform the Board of those changes, and looked forward to receiving full information on new members at upcoming meetings.

Tim Brennan presented the motion to accept a change in the status to the Holdeen Trusts. Tim Atkins moved, and Lucia Santini-Field seconded approval of the motion, which the Board unanimously approved.

President Susan Frederick-Gray shared some of the highlights of the recent General Assembly Mission of the Association Partnership meeting, in which major decisions are made for the coming year's General Assembly (GA). She noted how the meeting has changed over time to focus more on overarching mission

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alignment question and described the generative conversation between the attendees representing the Board, Administration, GA Planning Committee (GAPC) and GA & Conference Services staff. She noted that GA 2019 will build on the recommendation for a General Conference, endorsed at the August Board meeting, to create a hybrid gathering with ample time for theological discernment.

Co-Moderator Mr. Barb Greve removed the discussion of appointments process from the Executive Session agenda in order to describe the process in the open meeting.

Before moving to Executive Session to consider nominees, the Board reviewed questions about how these names had been submitted by the Appointments Committee. Discussion noted that the Appointments Committee process did not do a special open call for these positions, since their typical process is to do periodic solicitations for applications and holds them for two years. However, members said that the process is long and not transparent, and certain members voiced their opinion that their own nomination or appointment process felt confusing or constrained. It was also noted that UUA staff have moved to posting all open positions, though staff and volunteer roles do not have the same selection process. Overall, there was a sense that the process for filling open seats needs to be revisited, and a recognition that there is a need to publicly acknowledge when positions are being filled.

The Co-Moderators said they brought the question of the open call to the full Board to honor a commitment to transparency, and that it was preferred but not essential to have a new member be present at the fall meeting. The Board agreed to schedule another meeting soon to review appointments for the Board and the GAPC meetings at a future meeting, and not go back to the Appointments Committee to request open call.

Note: following an Executive Session meeting on September 16, Zebulon Green was appointed to the General Assembly Planning Committee.

Board members offered a check-out, and Co-Moderator Greve adjourned the meeting at 10:13 pm.



Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Carey McDonald

Recording Secretary

BOARD OF TRUSTEES SCHEDULE

- **Meeting: October 2018, Boston, MA**
Thursday, October 11—Saturday, October 13, 2018
- **Videoconference Meeting: November 12, 2018**
8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. (Eastern)
Meeting URL: <http://zoom.us/j/529745195>
Meeting ID: 529 745 195
Join by Phone: +1 646-558-8656
- **Videoconference Meeting: December 10, 2018**
8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. (Eastern)
Meeting URL: <http://zoom.us/j/299243682>
Meeting ID: 299 243 682
Join by Phone: +1 646-558-8656
- **Meeting: January 2019, Boston, MA**
Friday, January 25—Saturday, January 26, 2019
- **Videoconference Meeting: February 11, 2019**
8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. (Eastern)
Meeting URL: <http://zoom.us/j/985901272>
Meeting ID: 985 901 272
Join by Phone: +1 646-558-8656
- **Videoconference Meeting: March 11, 2019**
8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. (Eastern)
Meeting URL: <http://zoom.us/j/614125629>
Meeting ID: 614 125 629
Join by Phone: +1 646-558-8656
- **Meeting: April 2019, Boston, MA**
Friday, April 26—Saturday, April 27, 2019
- **Videoconference Meeting: May 13, 2019**
8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. (Eastern)
Meeting URL: <http://zoom.us/j/596473699>
Meeting ID: 596 473 699
Join by Phone: +1 646-558-8656
- **Meetings: June 2019, Spokane, WA**
Tuesday, June 18—Wednesday, June 19, 2019: Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, June 19—Sunday June 23, 2019: General Assembly
Monday, June 24, 2019: Board of Trustees Meeting
- **Meeting: October 2019, Boston, MA**
Thursday, October 17—Saturday, October 19, 2019
- **Meeting: January 2020, Boston, MA**
Friday, January 24—Saturday, January 25, 2020



- **Meeting: April 2020, Boston, MA**
Friday, April 24—Saturday, April 25, 2020
- **Meetings: June 2020, Providence, RI**
Tuesday, June 23—Wednesday, June 24, 2020: Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, June 24—Sunday June 28, 2020: General Assembly
Monday, June 29, 2020: Board of Trustees Meeting

