

Memo

To: UUA Board of Trustees
From: Tim Brennan, Treasurer & CFO
Re: Repurposing the Josiah Whiting Endowment
Date: June 7, 2019

The UUA oversees the Josiah Whiting trust fund that was given to the American Unitarian Association for the benefit of First Parish Unitarian in Dover MA. In 1938 First Parish merged with the Dover Evangelical Church combining the two congregations into one. The AUA continued to make the payout from this fund to the combined Church. And the UUA has continued to make these payments to The Dover Church.

In a review conducted by our senior endowment accountant Phil Murray of the over 100 trusts administered by the UUA, this fund was identified as possibly being out of compliance with the terms of the bequest. Phil found that the church claimed only three UU members out of 250. The church's signage, website, and bulletin contain no reference to the UUA or Unitarian Universalism. A codicil to the Whiting bequest says, "In case the said Parish shall cease, in the judgment of the directors of the AUA to exist as a Unitarian Parish, the income of the amount so bequeathed shall be used for the general purposes of the Association." Distributions from the fund were suspended until a fuller review could be conducted. The church was contacted and asked to provide documentation supporting their right to receive the payout. The situation was reviewed with general counsel Tom Bean, and he agreed that the suspension of payments was in order.

After several conversations with the Dover Church treasurer, the church board agreed to relinquish any claim on the Whiting Trust in return for payment of the distributions that would have been paid during the period of suspension totaling \$9,007.27.

MOTION: The Board approves using the payout from the Josiah Whiting fund for the general purposes of the UUA consistent with the terms of the original bequest and codicil to the will.