

UUA Audit Committee – Minutes

24 Farnsworth Street, Room 315
Boston, MA 02210
May 8, 2017

Members present: Sean Rush, Chair, Lucia Santini, Mary Byron, Chris Chepel,

Member absent:

Staff: Tim Brennan, Mary Katherine Morn, Christopher Hartley, Sarah Lammert

Tofias: Mike Burns, Merrill Puopolo, Adam Nelson

1. Minutes – Rush

Motion 1: to adopt minutes from the March 6, 2017 meeting: moved by Chepel, seconded by Rush (via email on file), all approved.

2. Enterprise Risk Management: UUA fundraising – Morn, Hartley

- Rev. Mary Katherine Morn, Director of Stewardship and Development, presented a report on the fundraising program of the UUA and the outlook for the future. She noted certain risks and threats to future revenue supporting the work of the Association.
- With overall congregational membership declining, this could adversely affect APF.
- She also reported on the efforts to change the way congregational dues are calculated moving from a per-member formula to one based on ability to pay. There is considerable anxiety in our congregations about this shift.
- Finally she noted that the controversy around institutional racism within the UUA and specifically on our hiring practices undermined efforts to raise donations.

3. UUA Audit Plan – Burns, Puopolo

- Puopolo presented the audit plan for fiscal year 2017. She reviewed the responsibilities of the audit firm, the audit committee and the board, and the the UUA management team.
- She stated that there were no new accounting standards that would affect the audit.
- Audits are increasingly a combination of risk assessments, random samples, targeted inspection of inherently riskier transactions and transactions of interest which are targeted by the use of technology and computer automated tools.
- Executive session: the auditors met with the committee without management present.

4. ERM: recent management changes at UUA – Lammert

- After the resignations of the president and chief operating officer, Rev. Sarah Lammert was appointed as interim COO.

- Lammert reported that the UUA board of trustees had appointed three co-presidents to lead the Association until a new president is elected at the upcoming General Assembly at the end of June.
- She stated that the new leadership had calmed the turmoil among staff, and that there was new attention to addressing structures of white supremacy within the Association.
- As a first step, the co-presidents initiated a hiring freeze while hiring practices are examined.

5. ERM: Review Grid – Brennan

- Brennan presented the Enterprise Risk Management Grid. The committee expressed an interest in revisiting the risk assessment ratings.

Action item: Brennan will circulate a blank ERM grid so committee members can do their own ratings.

Next meeting:
November 20, 2017