

First Unitarian Board of Trustees September 19, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Kristin Faust, Grace Latibeaudiere-Williams, Cindy Pardo, John Martin-Eatinger, Margie Gonwa, Ellen LaRue, Rev. David Schwartz, Rev. Teri Schwartz, Rev. Monica Kling-Garcia, Beth Moss, Liz Harris, Betty Holcomb

1. Call to Order. Kristin Faust called the September 19, 2019 Board meeting to order and John Martin-Eatinger provided opening words.

2. August Minutes. Cindy Pardo moved, Grace Latibeaudiere-Williams seconded, and the Board unanimously approved the August 22, 2019 Board Meeting minutes with minor changes noted by Board members.

3. Intern Minister's Report. Rev David and Rev Teri introduced Monica Kling-Garcia, second year Meadville Lombard student and First U's new Ministerial Intern. Rev. Monica is the first recipient of the Shug Ministerial Internship Endowment established through Ken Shug's donation to the congregation. Rev. Monica will work 20 hours per week for 2 years. Presently, she is getting to know the First U community, shadowing Rev. David and Rev. Teri, and developing her Learning and Services Agreement.

4. Treasurer's Report.
 - a. Financial Statements. Liz Harris, Treasurer, presented the August 31st Income Statement and Balance Sheet showing a net balance of \$83 for the first two months of the fiscal year. The board thanked Liz for her tremendous work resulting in up-to-date, professional financial statements.

Financial Advisor. Liz Harris presented a recommendation from the Investment Subcommittee to engage Bernstein and Company to advise and handle First U's investments. Bernstein and Company was highly recommended and has experience with churches and non-profits. Other advisors were interviewed. Margie Gonwa moved and Cindy Pardo seconded that the Board approve the following Resolution:

“Per the recommendation of the Investment Subcommittee, First Unitarian will engage Bernstein and Company as First Unitarian’s endowment advisor for the period of one year.”

The Board unanimously approved the Resolution with an amendment to include a fee to Bernstein and Company of 1.02% of the amount of First Unitarian funds managed by the company.

Board members discussed reasons to leave some First U funds in the UUA Common Endowment: professionally staffed, screens for ethical investments, maintain some corporate stock in order to engage in corporate activism as appropriate, and contribute our funds to big picture needs.

- b. Policies and Procedures. The Finance Committee will present draft Financial Policies and Procedures for Board review in October with an expected vote in November.
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5. Good Relations Committee. Grace Latibeaudiere-Williams presented a report of committee work in its first three meetings, shared the committee’s draft Covenant, and discussed the upcoming 6-12 month training process for committee members. The committee and Rev. Teri identified the Mennonite Peace Center for training and one-off sessions. The Board discussed potential sources of funding to cover the Mennonite Peace Center’s costs, including undesignated Fenn House proceeds, and the Borja estate (FU has an 80% investment/20% immediate use policy for bequests.). The Board commended Grace and the committee for their aggressive meeting schedule in order to launch the committee soon.

The Board noted that the term for the Fenn House endowment must be extended from the current 2020, otherwise the balance will be rolled into the general endowment.

6. DRE Report. Beth Moss presented the report on the past month’s activities. Highlights included: classes held in the park, 3 new anchor teachers, the youth-organized Water Communion worship service, Beth’s program outreach to other congregations, and program growth in terms of children and teachers.

7. Minister's Report. Rev. David and Rev. Teri presented their Minister's Report and discussed highlights including three focus areas chosen for longer-term attention based on the church's needs—Worship, Construction, and Conflict.

8. Upcoming Board Events. Behavioral Covenants Workshop on Oct 5. First Forums: second Sundays of the month--Oct 13, Nov 10, Dec 8.

Next Board meeting: Thursday, October 24, 2019, 6:45 pm.

The Board meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm and went into Executive Session.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margie Gonwa, Board of Trustees Member