

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Cleveland
Board of Trustees Meeting
Minutes

August 25, 2020

Board Members

Erika Brown	Bob Horan	Amy Glesius
Steve Doell	Carol Gay, President	Ray Gonzalez
Wayne Jennings	David Kantor, Treasurer	Christie Manning
Susan Paterson, Vice President	Tadd Pinkston, Secretary	Cat White, Past President

Minister: Rev. Joe Cherry

7:00 Welcome & Call to Order

Carol Gay

Chalice Lighting & Opening Words

Tadd Pinkston

“If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down all alone, these women together ought to be able to turn it back, and get it right side up again! And now they is asking to do it, the men better let them.” - Sojourner Truth

Covenant

Read by all

We are mindful of our duty to our fellow congregants, who have placed their trust in us to act as faithful stewards of the Congregation. Mindful of the trust they have placed in us, we will always strive to make decisions based on the needs of our fellow congregants, our community, and the long-term interests of the Congregation.

We must always use this position of trust and responsibility as a unique opportunity to serve our Congregation, and to put its principles of love, tolerance, and social justice into action.

Let’s presume good faith. Let’s give everyone a chance to talk. Let’s get it done.

7:02 CONSENT AGENDA

- [July 2020 Minutes](#)
- Move to adopt with amendments by David Kantor
- Seconded by Ray Gonzalez
 - Unanimously passed

Tadd Pinkston

7:04 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST?

- None noted

7:05 Minister's Report

Rev Joe Cherry

- [Submitted](#)
 - [Edit](#) misspelling of Ray's last name

7:07 Staff & Leadership Council Reports Submitted in Advance

- [Leadership Council](#) (Cat White)
- Future events ought to have some sort of business plan or budget in order for us to fully comply with our fiduciary obligations.
- While this event was very good - even good ideas/plans need to be formally laid out.
- Board still does not want to micromanage events - proposals/budgets still need to go to LC for approval.
 - We spent congregation monies on this event and there should be some sort of paper trail approving the expenses.
 - Staff seems very unsure who has authority to spend what - this needs to be cleared up.
 - For example if Mike Carney had the money in his budget to pay for items/events then he would not need to go to LC or the Board.
 - It may be wise for the staff expenditure report to be shown to LC going forward.
 - An example of concerns regarding staff autonomy.
- Concerns expressed about COVID liability.
- [Bluesky Folk Festival](#) wants to have a concert on our land. Would be a good opportunity to put some changes into practice.
 - How do we implement these changes - action items and liaisons
 - Carol suggested using google docs to assign folk to tasks.
 - Ex: Liaisons to LC should be Cat or Rev. Joe as they are on LC.
- [Religious Education](#) (Allan Georgia)
 - Forum relationship discussed. Is a charter needed?
 - Wayne is on the forum committee - asked what is Allan's role

- Allan mostly acts in an advisory role.
- Committee has been independent for so long that change may be unnecessary.
 - Allan's input is valuable, control of the committee is not needed.
- Comparison to Aaron's prior role - Committee needs technical and administrative help.
 - Ex: Uploading past forums
 - Ex: Printing documents
 - These concerns were addressed in LC last week.
- Forum doesn't have a clear 'home' in terms of the congregation's structure.
 - This problem is longstanding - per David this concern was being discussed during his first tenure on the prior 1st UU Board.
- Forum committee is mentioned in Allan's job description - support ongoing adult RE programs. Allan's role is not a mandated leadership role.
- [Events Coordinator](#) (Sharon Edmond)
 - Members expressed concern about the reopening sentence.
 - Details on Rev. Joe and Susan Alcorn's followup - there is a plan in place for forum.
 - Should Susan be keeping Sharon in the loop regarding membership - Board feels that Sharon should be there.
- [Music Board Report](#) (Mike Carney)
 - Questions about why there was no follow up on the fundraiser?
 - Answer: the fundraiser was not for us.

7:51 Treasurer's Report

David Kantor

- [Treasurer's Report](#)
 - Operation expenses were much better than budget
 - Non-operation expenses were much poorer than budget
 - Due to investment income being much less.
 - Out best year in some time - good news coming in an upcoming newsletter
- [Dashboard](#)
- [Financial Statements](#)

8:00 President's Report

Carol Gay

- [President's Report](#)

- Buildings and Grounds Status and Backup - concerns over communication.
- If Ken becomes unavailable communication shuts down.
- No traditional place for B&G to report to.
- The org. chart mandated by the strategic plan may solve this issue. Finance may take on a reporting role short term. Not decided on.
- [Committee Charters](#)
- Community Involvement/ Activities
 - Emails asking about reopening since Cuyahoga's COVID threat level increased.
 - Potential of a socially distanced coffee hour
 - Amy updated the Board on the idea of congregational park gatherings. Congregants ran into each other in the park, so folk thought about group gatherings.
 - Worship was not enthusiastic about the idea.
 - Worship is going to Microcenter to see if we can use technology to provide a soft opening.
 - E.g., Youtube live. Facebook Live
 - Test of technologies to be conducted this upcoming friday
 - Forum committee is willing to help with monies
 - Tadd has access to Google Meet which can host up to 200 folks and is willing to provide access to the congregation for free.
 - Budget items for these services in future would be helpful.

8:04 Committees

David Kantor

- [Membership](#) (Susan Paterson)
 - Mentors/Connectors are ready to meet with folk. Enthusiastically so!
- Facilities Taskforce (Tadd Pinkston)
 - Our realtor is exploring creating a report on our Cleveland Heights Property. This may cost around \$2,000.
 - [Example Report](#)
 - [Contract](#)

8:25 Opening/Closing Words for Next Meeting?

Cat White

Closing Words

Tadd Pinkston

"We are all bound up together in one great bundle of humanity, and society cannot trample on the weakest and feeblest of its members without receiving the curse in its own soul." - Frances Ellen Watkins Harper

8:30 Executive Session

8:37 Adjourned

Reference: [Board Reference Document](#)

Action Items

- Finance committee will clarify the operational goings-ons, budgets etc.
 - Person responsible: David Kantor.
- Tell Don Stimpert¹ to inform Allan that he should not worry about leading or reforming the forum.
 - Person responsible: David Kantor.
- Follow up with Allan regarding small group ministry revisions. Explore potential charter.
 - Person responsible: Cat White
- Tell Don Stimpert to request Sharon's presence at Membership Meetings
 - Person responsible: David Kantor
- Ray to tell B&G to create a charter.
 - Person responsible for: Ray Gonzalez
- Work on a charter for Worship
 - Person responsible for: Rev. Joe

¹ Contact person regarding LC