

**First Unitarian Universalist Church  
Board of Trustees  
Meeting Minutes  
September 23, 2020**

The vision of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus is to transform and heal ourselves and our world through reason and love.

The mission of this church is to fulfill its vision by...  
 Creating community through caring, nurturing, and celebrating  
 Working for justice through learning, reflecting, and doing  
 Engaging diversity through welcoming, listening, and empowering

Meeting practices

- Come prepared, having read reports and the agenda
- Submit questions in advance for inclusion on the agenda
- Items not addressed in the meeting will be handled in email (if time-sensitive) or appear at the top of next month's agenda
- If this process isn't working for you, speak up so we can make adjustments

**Present: Board Members: Lisa Brandt (Chair), Allie Bonsteel, Heidi Ballard, Don Jones, and Jan Phillips. Board Member Absent; Greg Denby. Also present: Youth Board Reps: Caroline Mocharsky and Teddy Davidson; Staff: Rev. Marian Stewart, Kelli McNeal, Isabel Call, and Brian Hagemann; Treasurer: Laura Hartman.**

Time	Topic	Responsible
	Opening and Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Chalice lighting and opening words</li> <li>● Check-in: How are you? What event in the next two months are you looking forward to the most?</li> </ul>	
	Centering question: What's a gift you receive from First UU?	All
	Consent agenda: Please see documents in Board of Trustees Shared Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Approve August Minutes</li> </ul>	Jan
	Meeting Isabel!	Isabel, of course
	<b>Ministry goals</b> How does the staff plan to work toward our goals for the year?	Marian

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increase visibility and engagement with the greater Columbus community (and beyond)</li> <li>● Maintain and increase engagement with our existing and potential members by broadening touchpoints through virtual engagement and diverse programming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Enhance programming for high school age youth with a focus on increasing participation and providing opportunities for mentorship</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Nurture a culture of welcoming through a broad examination of our welcoming practices and how our spaces (virtual/physical) are configured</li> </ul> <p><b>Minister’s report laid out plans tied to the ministry goals. A fourth goal, involvement in the strategic planning process, has been added by ministry staff members. Goal relative to visibility and engagement with the greater Columbus community is a challenge, as human bandwidth isn’t there for wider outreach, and not sure how to go about it. Know there are young folks out there who want to do something... JAM has historically been the way that outreach into the community has occurred. JAM is now operating under its new structure, with 6 focus groups, BREAD, Food Security, Racial Justice and Immigration, Democracy and Human Rights, Health Care, and Environment. The first three of these are the ones that are active. Question: how to further engage the congregation in justice work. Idea for a Justice Coordinator. Position would be part-time and end on June 30<sup>th</sup>, and have no impact on the church budget. Will pursue funding for such a position to serve as a JAM link with the congregation. Vote: 5 yes, plus 2 youth reps.</b></p>	
	<p><b>Governance goals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Board to deeply engage on reopening and continuing to engage congregation during these times <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Suggestions for reopening task force members? How do we want to handle making reopening decisions?</li> <li>○ Fall town hall - what should our focus be?</li> <li>○ Coffee hour “hosting” clarification</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Will hold a Town Hall on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 AM. Town Hall focus will be around a question something like this: What would you need to feel safe to return to church? Lisa and Jan will put this together. Lisa has ideas for discussion facilitation, including “post-it” notes, breakout rooms, etc. Lisa will send info about the Town Hall to Kelli for inclusion in the Friday congregational email.</b></p> <p><b>Coffee hour clarification: Board members just need to be present during coffee hours, unlike during the Summer when joys and sorrows, etc. were read. Now that we are doing our own services these are included in the service.</b></p> <p><b>Jan will send out reminders, at the beginning of each month, on coffee hour signups.</b></p>	<p>Lisa, Heidi</p>



	<p>Thank yous - How can Jan pick up cards? Any suggestions for recipients?  <b>Cards are on order. Congratulations to Kelli &amp; Amber on their new titles, Thank yous to: Dave Richter (building &amp; grounds work); Christine and Billy Davidson (Labor Day stuffie retreat); and Susan Roscigno, Amy Rudawsky (both SYC) and Cheryl Ryan (Red Oak)—new school year planning.</b></p>	<p>Lisa</p>
	<p>This month's action items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> October 25<sup>th</sup> Town Hall</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Research on Funding for part-time Justice Coordinator position</li> </ul>	<p>Lisa &amp; Jan Staff, JAM, &amp; Jan</p>
	<p>Wrap up and Closing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● How do you feel the meeting went? Did we “reflect our theology?”</li> <li>● Extinguish the Chalice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ I put my hand in your hand so that we can do together what I cannot do alone.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	