

First Unitarian Universalist Church
Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
November 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
- Attend meetings as if you had to drive home afterwards--we are empowered to make decisions with legal and financial implications, and we all need to be of sound mind as we make them.

Present: Board members: Lisa Brandt (Chair), Allie Bonsteel, Heidi Ballard, Don Jones & Jan Phillips; Board member absent: Greg Denby. Also present; Youth Board Reps: Teddy Davidson & Caroline Mocharski; Staff: Kelli McNeal, Amber Scott, and Brian Hagemann; Treasurer: Laura Hartman.

Time	Topic	Responsible
	Opening and Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Chalice lighting and opening words● Check-in: How are you?	Lisa
	Centering question: What foods do you like when you're sick? <i>or</i> What words have healed you? What poem, book or music lyric helped you hold on? Gave you hope? Led you to a new you?	All
	Consent agenda: Please see documents in Board of Trustees Shared Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Approve October minutes● Religions for Peace Sign-on Letter (Approved via an email vote)● Change to ministerial housing allowance for Marian Stewart (Approved via an email vote)	Jan

	<p>January Town Hall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What question should we ask? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Where do we see the church in five years? ○ What practices do we return to? ○ What current things do we keep? ○ What new things do we create? ● In what format should we hold a youth listening session? ● What coffee hour date works for everyone? <p>Lots of discussion—we need to look at this again next month and refine what we want the focus of the Town Hall to be. Seemed to begin to come together over ideas for what we want the church to be doing/look like in five years. In your dream...what does First UU look like in five years? Chose January 10, 2021, as the date for the Town Hall—will take the place of coffee hour that Sunday.</p>	<p>Lisa</p>
	<p>Finance discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What does "financial stability" mean to us, as we look at the church's finances? <p>Our concepts of financial stability: pledge base that is diverse enough to withstand downturns, have reserves, stability comes from diversity, predictability, consistent pledges, being able to respond to the unexpected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What perspective do we want to take as we consider potential changes to budgeting? <p>Will return to this in the future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How can a mission-based budget add to our understanding of how we utilize our resources? <p>Mission-based budgeting would allocate resources based on the three aspects of our mission statement: welcoming, working for justice, and engaging diversity. Will return to this in the future, as well.</p>	<p>Allie, Jan</p>
	<p>Stretch break</p>	
	<p>Youth status reports</p> <p>Caroline and Teddy have been the oldest members of the youth group for about two years; they want more input and participation. Have put together pen pal packets around the theme of friendships and conflicts. Ideas for engagement—burrito/coffee cards? Reach out to those who aren't showing up...Kelli is in the process of doing this for the larger congregation, including youth participants.</p>	<p>Caroline Teddy</p>
	<p>Other committee & task force reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Finance Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Treasurer's report <p>\$26M remains from the loan taken out to repair roof, etc. Determined we don't have to give it back to the bank; place it in the reserve account, water damage repair bid came back at \$65M—includes some cosmetic work that doesn't need to be done, as it's visible only from</p>	<p>Laura Lisa</p>

	<p>the courtyard. \$3M has been committed to replace windows in Rev. Marian’s office. PPP loan conversion—looks like we can use the short form. Loss YTD is \$15M--loss of \$28M was budgeted. Checking account transition to Huntington is nearly complete—working on outstanding checks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reopening task force <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Members: David Carr (chair), Joan Matyskella, Robin Stuntz, Tara Mullins-Cosme, Su Farnlacher, Lisa Brandt, and Brian Hagemann; possibly Liam Davidson, as youth rep. <p>Group has been put together...will have its first meeting soon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strategic Plan <p>Task force will meet in early December.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nominating Committee <p>Allie has reached out to Gina Phillips...don’t know yet if they will be asking for a change to the Constitution...if so, a vote will be part of the mid-year meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Personnel Committee 	<p>Don, Greg Allie Greg</p>
	<p>Staff reports See reports in Board drive.</p>	<p>Brian</p>
	<p>Thank yous - Any suggestions for recipients? Reopening Task Force members; Karen Keenan for Finance Cte. Minutes; music staff for November 20th hymn sing.</p>	<p>Lisa</p>
	<p>This month’s action items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Set December's meeting date (currently Dec. 23) <p>Laura will see if Finance Cte. can meet a week earlier and schedule Board meeting for December 16th. If this doesn’t work, Lisa will do a Doodle poll.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Set mid-year meeting date Tentatively set for February 14th. <input type="checkbox"/> Set board retreat date (late February) Doodle poll. <input type="checkbox"/> Create a list of important dates. Jan will do this. 	<p>Lisa</p>
	<p>Wrap up and Closing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How do you feel the meeting went? Did we “reflect our theology?” ● Extinguish the Chalice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I put my hand in your hand so that we can do together what I cannot do alone. 	<p>All</p>