



**Board of Trustees Meeting of the
First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio
July 19, 2017**

- A. **Call to order** by Jim Noël at 7:05 p.m. Requirements for a quorum were met.

- B. **Members present:** Jim Noël (President), David Ringer (Vice President), Anne Peters (Secretary), April Chase (Treasurer), Steven Stechschulte (Trustee-at-large), Donna Reed (Trustee-at-large), Heather Hedquist (Trustee-at-large). **Members absent:** Betty Dabney (Trustee-at-large), Rev. Josh Snyder.

- C. **Opening words** were provided by Jim, and the chalice was lit.

- D. **The Board Covenant** was read, and April was appointed process observer.

- E. **Check-ins were shared, and the agenda finalized** with the addition of one item under New Business (cell tower update).

- F. **Consent Agenda**
 - 1. All reports were submitted to Board members in advance via email, and gratitude was expressed to Board liaisons for sending in their reports with ample time for review prior to the meeting. April is working with our accountant to see if we can get the financial reports a few more days in advance of Board meetings.

 - 2. David made a motion that we accept the consent agenda reports as presented. Heather seconded. **Passed unanimously.**

- G. **New Business**
 - 1. **Review of Board proposed goals for 2017-18** – The proposed goals (as drafted during the Board’s June retreat) were discussed and refined, resulting in the

following:

- i. Plan and implement at least three Board linkage activities.
- ii. Implement monitoring of Governing Processes and Board-Minister Linkage
- iii. Hire stewardship consultant and source additional monies needed to pay for as robust a mix of consultant services as possible. Develop a financial strategy to support consultant needs in future years.
- iv. Analyze feasibility of refinancing mortgage in light of prepayment penalty expiring in 2018.
- v. Engage in self-education regarding the Board's role in policy governance.

Anne will work on formatting these into goals/objectives for Board review prior to our August meeting.

2. **Disposition of *In Memoriam* gifts** – This topic was raised at a recent Trust Fund of the Endowments committee meeting. Informal conversations with longstanding members indicate that some congregants assume *in memoriam* gifts go into the endowment. Our current operating procedure states that any *undesignated* gifts—including *in memoriam* gifts—go into the operating fund. Board members felt that this may need to be a policy, rather than an operating procedure. We will revisit this topic next month so Rev. Josh can contribute to the discussion. It was noted that *in memoriam* gifts are different from estate planning gifts. On a side, note, a clarification was made that the Financial Committee membership needs to be approved by the Board.
3. **IT Committee survey** – Jim indicated that the survey has already been sent to committee chairs. Jim invited Board members to share any feedback regarding the survey with him.
4. **Committee chairs and church membership** – We do not currently have a policy stipulating whether committee chairs must be current members of the church. We will revisit this topic for further discussion at a future meeting.

H. Old Business

1. **Stewardship consultant** – Jim indicated that he has been in communication with Bill Clontz regarding the terms of our agreement. More to come.
2. **Cell tower lease update** – Howard Berger learned that if we hired Vertical Consultants to assist us with the lease terms, their fee would be 25% of the increased revenue they generate for us. Board members had no objections to Rev. Josh pursuing consultant services, if he so chooses. We need to clarify who would sign the agreement.

I. Closing

1. **Process observation** – April noted we had a robust conversation! We spent the bulk of our time on the most important topic – our goals for the year. Steven noted we may have spent a bit too much time on trying to “solve” each goal, but mostly stayed on task.
2. **Closing words** were provided by Anne, and the chalice was extinguished.

J. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.