



**First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio
Board of Trustees Meeting
March 16, 2022**

MINUTES

Gale Morrow called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. The Board met via Zoom teleconferencing.

PRESENT: Danielle Bess, Deb Loya, Gale Morrow, Terry Palin, Ron Pena, Troy Peters, Rev. Mark Skrabacz, Oscar Solis, Vicki Tullius

Rev. Mark shared opening words. Gale read our covenant, and Terry read the ends statements. Terry was named Process Observer. Troy was named Timekeeper for the meeting.

The Consent Agenda was approved as presented. Included in the Consent Agenda:

- February 16 Board Minutes
- Minister's Report
- President's Report
- Vice President's Report
- Treasurer's Report

OLD BUSINESS

Deb reported on progress in considering proposals from companies offering to purchase church land on which cell towers are located. Howard Berger and Jim Noel are willing to analyze offers, but more information needs to be gathered. One of the companies involved, Everest, has requested additional information that we are so far unable to provide. Deb will continue to work on this, but expects it to be a long-term project. Ron expressed his willingness to help and will follow up with Deb.

Deb reminded the Board that Board Listening Sessions will take place on March 20 (in person) & 27 (via Zoom).

Rev. Mark shared that he has invited Rev. Nell Newton to become assistant minister. He expects she will begin part-time in May 2022, transitioning to fulltime within a few months.

Rev. Mark reported that two candidates have been interviewed to become acting DLRE. He is negotiating with one of these candidates, with the potential to have the position filled as early as June 2022.

Terry reported that as of March 15, the Stewardship Committee has received pledges of \$319,511 (49% of our goal), with pledges from 102 households (29% of all households or 35% of member households). 14 pledges have decreased from last year, 37 have stayed the same, and the remaining 42 have increased. If everyone who has not yet pledged matches what they gave last year, the committee expects about \$595,000 in pledges. The committee feels it would be helpful to the campaign if announcements could be made the hiring of an assistant minister and an acting DLRE, as well as a potential extension of Rev. Mark's contract. Rev. Mark said that an announcement about the assistant minister and acting DLRE might be possible by March 24.

Rev. Mark has contacted leadership at Temple Beth-El about who provides their quarterly security training. He has reached to the trainer they use and is waiting to hear back.

NEW BUSINESS

Deb noted that the draft budget continues to develop as new needs arise, including potential moving and furniture expenses related to new staff and a potential increase in compensation for our sound technician. She pointed out that it might be possible to cover some furniture expenses in this current fiscal year, depending on timing. The final budget will come to the Board in April.

The Board discussed options for recognizing and thanking retiring DLRE Sheri Phillabaum in May for her years of dedicated service to the church.

Terry report that incoming Assistant Minister Nell Newton would prefer to select and purchase her own office furniture and then be reimbursed, with an estimated budget of around \$1,500. Funds from the current fiscal year's budget might be able to cover her GA registration. The Board discussed possible rearrangement of office space among various rooms on campus, to accommodate the assistant minister and acting DLRE.

Ron presented a proposed HVAC service contract from Trotter & Martin. He has checked their references from other churches and pointed out that two months of this contract could be paid from the current fiscal year's budget. **Terry moved and Troy seconded that the Trotter & Martin contract be approved as presented. The motion carried.**

The annual congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 22. Gale asked the Board to consider whether the meeting should be held in person or online. The consensus was that he meeting should be live, with a proxy vote available for those who cannot be present. The

meeting will be held in the sanctuary to allow more space. Pizza will be offered before the meeting. The agenda will include approving revised bylaws, approving the budget, electing a slate of officers, choosing Share the Plate recipients, and introducing new church staff members. LDC expects to share the proposed officer slate at the May Board meeting, in advance of the annual meeting.

The Board's next regular meeting will take place on April 20. It will include a joint session with the Committee on Shared Ministry and will take place in person.

The Board went into Executive Session from 7:51 p.m. until 8:23 p.m.

Rev. Mark shared closing words. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

March 28-29 Online Vote

Via email, **Terry moved and Deb seconded that the Board approve a contract with Rialto Studio for landscape architectural services in the amount of \$10,000, to be paid out of capital campaign funds. The motion carried.**

[Minutes prepared by Troy Peters, Board Secretary]