



**First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio
Board of Trustees Meeting
May 18, 2022**

MINUTES

Gale Morrow called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. The Board met via Zoom teleconferencing.

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

GUESTS: Rev. Nell Newton and proposed 2022/23 Board members Betty Burgner and Heather Hedquist

Rev. Mark shared opening words and lit the chalice. After a check-in, Gale introduced our guests.

After Troy noted that one small grammatical correction had been made to the minutes after they were initially posted, the Consent Agenda was approved as presented. Included in the Consent Agenda:

- April 20 Board Minutes
- President's Report
- Vice President's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Minister's Report
- Coordinating Council Report

Deb read the Board's covenant, and Danielle read the ends statements.

OLD BUSINESS

Rev. Mark reported on the search for a new DLRE. Since the Board met on April 20, two candidates have declined the position. Mark is now negotiating with a third candidate whom he thinks is likely to accept the position. He noted that some elements of budgeted compensation for the position may need to be recategorized as part of the offer (e.g. funds budgeted for health insurance shifted to moving expenses), but that the total compensation package would still fall within the total budgeted funds available.

Terry reported that as of May 17, the Stewardship Committee has received pledges of approximately \$585,000 (97% of our goal).

Gale reported that the annual congregational meeting will take place on May 22 at 12:30 p.m. Sheri Phillabaum will coordinate snacks, and Ron Meneses will handle livestreaming. Gale has prepared a PowerPoint presentation, and the agenda will include approval of last year's minutes, revised bylaws, next year's budget, and the new leadership slate, as well as selection of Share the Plate recipients. Voting will be electronic, via online survey, for all participants.

Ron shared a thorough briefing on what he has learned about the history of Crown Castle's lease (utility easement) of church real property as a site for cell phone towers, which began in 1996, and about Crown Castle's more recent offers to purchase this real estate parcel. **Deb moved and Vicki seconded that the following motion to negotiate a contract with Crown Castle be adopted by the Board. The motion carried, with one abstention.**

I move that negotiations with Crown Castle for the easement purchase or extended lease of the cell tower site be continued based on their letter dated April 22, 2022, and That Ron Pena, in his capacity as Maintenance and Repair Chair, be authorized to conduct such negotiations with both Crown Castle, as well as Vertical Consultants, which is also impacted by any change in the cell tower leasing, and

Further, that Ron be able to consult freely with Jim Noel, Howard Berger, Deb Loya and Alan Chase on various aspects of the cell tower history, property, administration and financial impacts, and

That any agreement to any change to the current cell tower lease be the sole authority of the then existing Board and must be agreed to by vote of said Board.

It is further moved that all contact with Everest regarding purchase of the cell tower parcel be discontinued.

NEW BUSINESS

Gale and Terry reported that they met recently to discuss passing the torch to the new Board as of June 1. Terry thanked Gale for her exemplary service as President.

Deb reported that she has been reviewing our account balances at Frost Bank and consulting with our accountants about closing out the 2021/22 fiscal year.

Rev. Mark reported that he plans to spend approximately \$12,000 on the purchase of a high-quality projector for the sanctuary before the end of the fiscal year. **Deb moved and Terry seconded that Rev. Mark be authorized to contract with San Antonio Light and Sound to provide and install a projector for the sanctuary, with the total purchase price not to exceed the funds available in budget line 693 (Audio Visual Upgrade). The motion carried.**

The Board discussed details of Rev. Nell Newton's compensation package. **Deb moved and Oscar seconded that \$1,670 of Rev. Nell Newton's total monthly compensation be apportioned as housing allowance. The motion carried.**

Rev. Mark shared closing words. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

[Minutes prepared by Troy Peters, Board Secretary]