



**First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
August 3, 2022**

Present: Terry Palin (P), Heather Hedquist (VP), Debra Loya (TR), Polly Noël (SEC), Betty Burgner (AL), Oscar Solis (AL), Rev. Mark Skrabacz

Absent: Danielle Bess (AL), Rev. Nell Newton

Guests: Janet Realini, Cathy Marston

Terry Palin called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. The Board met in via Zoom teleconferencing.

NEW BUSINESS

The ad hoc meeting was called to consider request by the Social Justice Committee for First UU Church of San Antonio to serve as fiscal sponsor for Cathy Marston's application for a grant to the Alice Kleberg Reynolds (AKR) Foundation. The AKR Foundation makes grants to qualified non-profit organizations serving 50 specific counties in south and central Texas. Grants are awarded for arts/culture, charitable, education, literacy, medical, and scientific purposes, programs, or campaigns that that provide support and/or services to women, girls, and lesbians. The current grant cycle will close on Wednesday, August 24th.

Cathy Marston's is requesting \$10,555 in grant funds for one year from the AKR Foundation to support the Free Battered Texas Women (FBTW) mission to educate and support incarcerated and released battered women and ensure they live whole, productive lives. Grant funds will be used as seed money to provide salaries for part-time staff, laptop, software, cell phone, and related office supplies. The FBTW has established a board, bylaws, and has received a certificate of formation from the State of Texas. The not-yet-incorporated group's 501c3 application for tax exempt status is in progress.

Cathy previously received a \$5,000 Margaret Fuller Grant from the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation (UUWF) to pay Rev.com to transcribe interviews of formerly incarcerated battered women and victim advocates who worked for their clemency in the 1980s and 1990s for a book proposal. In January 2020, FBTW was awarded a \$4,000 Equity and Justice Grant from the UUWF to write workshop curriculum to get congregations to start women's prison ministries/restorative justice. First UU San Antonio was the fiscal sponsor for that grant.

The proposed grant would support FBTW activities from September 1, 2022 through August 30, 2023. As a fiscal sponsor for the proposed grant, First UU Church San Antonio would receive grant funds from the AKR Foundation and disburse them to FBTW. If the grant is awarded, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) would be created between First UU and the FBTW.

Janet Realini reported that she and Mary Grace Ketner had been advising Cathy Marston on her grant proposal, which was revised and narrowed in focus from an earlier version presented

to the Board of Trustees last year. Janet believes that the proposed scope of work is feasible and responsive to the AKF Foundation funding guidelines. Janet indicated that she and Mary Grace on behalf of the Social Justice Committee would accept responsibility for monitoring grant performance and preparing vouchers for the FBTW.

Cathy Marston provided additional background about the FBTW and details about the proposed grant application, as well as future plans to apply for more sustainable funding.

Deb Loya suggested that grant funds could be placed in a restricted reserve account and that fiscal sponsorship would be manageable if funds were disbursed monthly through voucher request approved by the Social Justice Committee.

Rev. Mark agreed that the proposed fiscal sponsorship would be manageable with minimal burden on administrative staff.

Heather Hedquist moved that First UU Church of San Antonio serve as fiscal sponsor for the Free Battered Texas Women's organization solely for the application and receipt of grant funds from the Alice Kleberg Reynolds Foundation to be requested in the amount of \$10,555 on the condition that an MOU or contract be entered into between the FBTW and First UU Church of San Antonio and that the Social Justice Committee will act as the monitor and approver for all vouchers requesting funds from the grant.. Oscar Solis seconded the motion. The motion carried – For: 6; Against: 0; Abstained: 0

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

[Minutes prepared by Polly Noël, Board Secretary]