



**First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio
DRAFT Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2022**

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

Note: One at-large position still vacant

Guest: Dorothy Wallace

Terry called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. The Board met via Zoom teleconferencing. Terry asked Oscar to serve as process observer and Betty to serve as timekeeper. Rev. Mark shared opening words and lit the chalice. Oscar read the Board's covenant. All Board Members took turns reading the ends statements and provided brief check-ins.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda was approved with corrections and clarifications noted below:

- June Board Meeting Minutes - Polly
- August ad hoc Board Meeting Minutes - Polly (minor correction requested by Terry)
- Treasurer's Report - Deb
- President's Report – Terry
- Vice President's Report – Heather
- Minister's Report – Rev. Mark
- Coordinating Council – Rev. Mark
- Stewardship – Oscar (will meet on August 18th)
- Leadership Development Committee – Report from Tess Bobo (Board Liaison still vacant)
- Trust Fund for Endowments – Danielle (will meet next week)
- CREF – Betty
- Capital Campaign Committee (CCC) Report – Heather
- Creative and Digital Media Manager Report – Mary Wright (recently hired)

Capital Campaign Update

Dorothy Wallace provided an update on the status of the Capital Campaign, which has been in progress since September 2019. During this "quiet" phase of the campaign, \$700,000 in Advance Gift commitments have been received. Two events in September will kick-off the public phase of the campaign: Congregational Dinner on September 16th at the San Antonio Food Bank and a CCC-led Worship Service on September 25th. On October 1, the lead architect will make a presentation to the congregation. Donors will be asked to fulfill their commitments over a 36-month period beginning in January 2023. Construction will not begin until Summer 2023. The Board had previously approved the Capital Campaign objectives, goals, and general plan. The CCC asks that the Board to continue to support the campaign and serve check for potential conflicts between general maintenance and repair requirements and CC plans. Beginning in September 2022, the CCC will provide official reports every month to the Board.

Old Business

Wireless Cell Tower: Due to emails that continue to be sent by Everest, Terry re-read the motion previously approved at the May 2022 Board Meeting, which stated 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.*

The Board agreed that there was no need to consider or discuss any further offers from Everest.

New Agenda Items

- **Board Authorization for Rev. Nell to Officiate Events:** Rev. Mark asked the Board to formally authorize Rev. Nell to act as an officiant for weddings, memorial services, and other pastoral rites. Deb moved and Heather seconded the following motion: *We the board of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio recognize the ongoing ministry of Rev. Nell Newton and grant her the authority to conduct pastoral rites with our full support.* The motion carried: Approved: 7; Opposed: 0; Abstained: 0
- **Listening Session:** Terry reminded the group that the first Listening Session will be held in person in the sanctuary on September 18th.
- **Monitoring Reports Calendar:** Terry and Heather reviewed history of monitoring reports and requested that the Board initiate the process of reviewing governance policies every month at the September meeting based on the distributed schedule.
- **Request from Congregant regarding Plan B (Morning After) Pill:** A parent member has requested that Plan B be made freely available to congregants on the First UU campus (e.g., in public restrooms). After extensive discussion, Heather moved and Betty seconded that *the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio will not provide OTC medications without staff or pastoral supervision.* Rev. Nell and Betty will follow up with the parent. The motion carried: In favor: 6; Opposed 0; Abstained: 1
- **Board Goals:** The group reviewed and finalized the draft goals. Heather moved and Oscar seconded that *the Board accept the goals as revised for 2022-2023.* The motion carried: In favor: 7; Opposed 0; Abstained: 0. Members were asked to provide Action Items prior to the September meeting.

Closing

Oscar observed that the meeting discussion stayed on topic. Betty noted that a lot was accomplished within the time allowed for discussion. Rev. Nell read the closing words. The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Next Meeting September 21, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Post Meeting Business

On September 8th, the Board considered an emergency request from the Social Justice Committee by email. Deb moved and Betty seconded that *the Board of Trustees of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio be added as a signatory to the attached letter addressed to Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senator Chuck Schumer to stop side-deals with*

regards to the fossil fuel industry which would directly harm many rural, indigenous, and low income communities around the country. Supporting this effort in the fight for climate justice is consistent with both our first principle, recognizing the worth and dignity of every person, and the seventh principle, recognizing the interdependent web of all existence. The motion carried: In favor: 6; Against: 0; Abstained: 0; No response: 1

[Minutes prepared by Polly Noël, Board Secretary]