



Board of Trustees

April 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes

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

Absent: Danielle Bess (AL)

Guest: Bridget Laflin

Gathering, Establishing Quorum

The board met via Zoom. Having established a quorum, Terry called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Terry asked Deb to serve as Process Observer and Emmanuel to serve as Timekeeper. Betty shared opening words and lit the chalice. Heather read the Covenant, Betty read the Ends, Terry read the Values. After brief check-ins, the consent agenda was finalized.

Consent Agenda Approval

The March Board meeting minutes and other items on the consent agenda were approved as submitted with updates and clarifications noted below:

- Board Minutes (Polly)
- President's Report (Terry)
- V. President's Report (Heather)
- Treasurer's Report (Deb – indicated that updates on Profit & Loss & Balance just received today and added to the Board drive)
- Minister's Report (Rev. Mark)
- Coordinating Team Notes (Rev. Mark)
- COSM Meeting (Rev. Mark)
- Asst. Minister's Report on Sunday Safety Policy and Wi-Fi (Rev. Nell)
- LDC Report (Emmanuel)
- Trust Fund for the Endowment Report (Danielle)
- CREF Report (Betty)
- Stewardship Report (Oscar)
- Financial Report (Deb)
- Capital Campaign Report (Terry)

OLD BUSINESS

Governance Policy Monitoring:

- Limitations: none this month
- Linkage: none this month
- Governance: 4.9 - Financial Planning and Investments - no changes

Widening the Circle of Concern – Pages 127-133: *(Postponed until May)*

Interim Ministry Congregational Discussions: *(Postponed until May)*



NEW BUSINESS

RJ-BLM 8th Principle request: Terry reported that the RJ-BLM group requested a congregational vote at the May 21, 2023 Annual Meeting. **Terry moved and Betty seconded that the congregation be asked to adopt the 8th principle at the May Congregational meeting to be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of members. For: 4; Against 0; Abstained: 1. Motion passed.**

Minister's Discretionary Fund: Members agreed to postpone discussion until May, but Deb asked for a summary of the Discretionary Fund disbursements prior to that meeting.

Proposed Bylaw Changes: Deb proposed changes to Article VII in the Bylaws regarding the terms of office for the Treasurer and the Secretary to make them more consistent with the terms for other board members and because of difficulties that the LDC has had in recruiting for the Treasurer position. Deb also proposed language describing the roles and responsibilities of the Treasurer (similar to language in the bylaws for the other officers). **Deb moved and Oscar seconded that the proposed changes to the term of Secretary and Treasurer and addition of Section 5 be made to the bylaws, to be submitted to the Congregation at the May 21, 2023 Annual Meeting for a vote. For: 5; Against 0; Abstained 0. Motion passed.** Polly reported on the recommendations of the subcommittee to amend Article VI to allow electronic participation and voting during Congregational Meetings. The proposed revisions incorporate recommended language from the UUA on electronic participation and adopt language from the UUA bylaws on electronic voting. **Heather moved and Deb seconded that the proposed revisions to Article V of the bylaws allowing electronic participation of persons who are unable to attend congregational meetings in person and the use of electronic voting for all participants be presented to the May Congregational Meeting for a vote. For: 5; Against 0; Abstained 0. Motion passed.**

Free Texas Battered Women (FTBW): *postponed until May.*

Cell Tower: Deb and Terry presented an offer that had recently been received regarding the sale of the Cell Tower leader and perpetual easement for the cell tower land. After brief discussion, Deb withdrew a motion to submit a following motion to the Congregation at the Annual meeting in May 2023 for a vote:

That the congregation approves of the negotiation of the sale of the lease and a perpetual easement on the property on which the cell tower is currently located. Final sale to be upon the approval of the board but shall not be for any sum which nets less than the following:

- Option B – Down payment with annual payments (Perpetual Easement) – Purchase price of **\$560,000.00**.



- Paid in \$100,000 at signing and \$23,000 annual installment payments for 20 years (2043)
- Net after paying Vertical Consultants \$420,00

Budget: Terry invited Bridget to convey updated budget priorities discussed at the Youth RE Committee meeting, including how important Rev. Nell is to the parents and youth. Priorities included camp scholarships for UBarU, parents' night out, and summer camp. Parents also expressed willingness to volunteer if some programs were cut (e.g., playground monitors). Bridget pointed out that some churches have not bounced back from the pandemic, especially in their youth programming, but this is a strength for First UU.

Executive Session: The Board adjourned into Executive Session at 7:53 pm to discuss the budget and Senior Minister's evaluation. This session was paused at 10:00 pm and discussion continued over several evenings and concluded on the evening of April 24 at 9:24 pm.

Budget: Upon coming out of Executive session, the board agreed to distribute a balanced budget with projected revenue / expenditures of \$571,874 for congregational feedback at the upcoming Budget Townhalls. The Board adjourned at 9:24 pm.

Upcoming Calendar Events:

- Thursday, April 11 - Executive Team Meeting
- Tuesday, April 18, 6 p.m. – Board Listening Session (Zoom)
- Wednesday, April 19, 6 p.m. - Board Meeting
- Thursday, April 27, 7 p.m. – Board Town Hall I (Zoom) (Board members should attend)
- Tuesday, May 2, 7 p.m. – Board Town Hall II (Zoom) (Board member should attend)
- Sunday, May 21, 12:30 p.m. - Congregational Meeting (All Board members should attend) (In the Sanctuary)

Special Board Meeting May 3, 2023 – The Board met via Zoom from 6:00 pm to 9:23 pm in Executive Session attended by Terry Palin, Heather Hedquist, Deb Loya, Polly Noël, Betty Burgner, and Emmanuel Garrido to revise the proposed budget based on feedback received from members during the April 27th and May 2nd Townhall Meeting, as well as initial response from members who had offered to increase their pledges, including \$10,000 to be used for a match. Upon coming out of Executive Session, the Deb moved and Heather seconded that the Board approve a balanced budget finalized on 5.3.2023 with proposed revenues of \$609,902 and expenditures of \$609,903 for presentation to the congregation for a vote at the May 2023 Annual Meeting. Note: difference due to rounding function. The board adjourned at 9:58 pm