

UUSJ Executive Committee – May 12, 2021

Participants: Bob Denniston, Charlotte Jones-Carroll, John Peterson, Serena Lowe, Pablo de Jesus, John Gubbings (last 30 mins), Sean McCarthy (for discussion on nominations)

1. Timetable for Board documents: Bob pointed to his reminder in email of deadlines for draft agenda and key documents for June 26 board meeting (10 days before) and other documents, reports (5 days).
2. Nominations Committee update: The NC has met every two weeks for a while now and gotten agreement on the main information documents and application form, sharing those on the website, eNews and with NC members. While four current board members have shown interest in continuing on the board, the NC has not identified any non-board members yet. It is time now for the NC members to reach out to potential candidates. The public “advertisements” for people to self-nominate or suggest people have started including via mention on the website and in April and May eNews. Pablo also asked CUUSAN for help in sending candidates our way. While the EC expressed concern about the slowness, the development of a solid process and buy-in from the NC was important. There will be two kinds of candidates – (i) unsolicited applications, which will be vetted by two NC members to assure candidates are qualified and (ii) candidates identified by NC members, which will be considered “pre-vetted.” The aim is to move toward ranking all candidates and making final decisions by June 10. No NC member will be a candidate (to avoid conflict of interest) though NC includes some great people who might be considered in a future year. References might be checked for non-vetted candidates. Some language in the info document might be off-putting; Serena made some suggestions for correcting that.
3. PARC update: While the issues survey is in, PARC chair Serena has not had a chance to analyze. Meeting is being rescheduled. Plan is to have a high-level document for the Board, which could endorse and encourage new Board to confirm, or otherwise evaluate the results and the PARC proposals after analysis of the survey results.
4. Budget proposal: Charlotte had not seen any further feedback that would impact the current version of the proposed budget for next fiscal year, but shared concerns about the continued deficit (April financial tables) for this year which could affect the carryover we need to count on, including the unused portion of the UUFPP grant. Congregational donations are unlikely to achieve the budgeted amount, but we have been getting unexpectedly generous individual donations. The only likely change in the budget proposal will be a minor adjustment for Admin Assistant salary, since the original budget for this FY was based on an 11-month year, while the AA has actually worked 12 months and should for next FY as well.
5. Membership proposals: John P reports the Membership Committee has drafted a covenant for members which clarifies the proposed relationship with UUSJ and will draft

simple policy additions that add congregations as a kind of member. These reflect input from experts and will be presented to the Board for approval in June. A marketing (implementation) plan has been developed. There will be a lot of work contacting 50 congregations, so volunteers will need to be incorporated, in coordination with the Exec Director (a number expressed interest via the survey). The development committee has offered to help with this.

6. Widening the Circle/8th Principle: Where does UUSJ stand on each of these initiatives and what steps are being taken to incorporate systemic anti-racism work? We agreed on the importance of addressing this through the Board (don't want to be noticed by our absence on the topics, if we are indeed a social justice-seeking organization). Given the high priority on racial justice from the issues survey and the fact that member congregations are actively along a spectrum of consideration/adoption of 8th principle, we agreed to survey Board members about these topics and what they think UUSJ should do. Bob will send language to Pablo who will with the AA arrange for an email to the Board.
7. Communications Plan for UUSJ: Bob is compiling notes on our communications activities and guidelines to pass on to new Board. John P believes our current eNews is too long and too backward oriented. He'd like to see a shorter communication with emphasis on positive results. John will share an example with the EC related to an environmental issue where progress is being made.
8. Defund police/abolition issue: Pablo reported back from a meeting with Everett Thompson (Side with Love) and Nicole Pressley (UU the Vote) who want to review possible deep canvassing/experiment on the very sensitive issue of abolishing or defunding the police. The pitched concept mentioned assessment of where UUs are on the issues with an eye towards political education and perhaps engagement on the Breath Act, once introduced. He'll continue to be in this conversation given our 1010 engagement on both the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act and Demilitarizing Police (NDAA and 1033 program), our interest to be in collaboration with both these social justice campaigns within UUA (SWL, UUTV) and our commitment to being insolidarity with those harmed by over-policing.

Charlotte Jones Carroll, Secretary