



## UUSJ Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes August 19, 2021

**Present:** Rev. Peggy Clarke, Charlotte Jones-Carroll, Johannes Favi, Rev. Eleanor Piez, Mariano Vera, Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons, Dr. Serena Lowe, Beyssa Buil, Norma Flores Lopez, Chloe Emily Ockey and Pablo DeJesus, Executive Director

1. Welcome, Chalice Lighting, Opening Reading and Quorum: Charlotte Jones-Carroll welcomed the board into the meeting. Beyssa Buil offered an opening reading and chalice lighting. Chloe Emily Ockey confirmed that with 10 of 11 present, we had a quorum.
2. Approval of Agenda: Charlotte Jones-Carroll confirmed there were no objections, and the agenda was approved.
3. Introductions/Check-In: Board Members and Staff shared one inspiring thing and one challenging thing. This section will not form part of the business minutes.
4. Approval of July 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes: small Grammar corrections (Lines 6, 2, & 7) were noticed by Mariano Vera. Once corrections were made, Chloe Emily Ockey moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Mariano Vera; corrected minutes approved.
5. Update from Executive Director: Charlotte and the board congratulated Pablo on representing UUSJ at the recent 8<sup>th</sup> principle zoom with Paula Cole Jones and Nicole Pressley. The Democracy Action Team anticipates an intensive advocacy zoom outing in September on John Lewis Voting Act and For the People Act. Many UU leaders were not aware of the new UUSJ board, so Pablo informed UUA President Rev. Susan Fredrick-Gray of our election. We have a pending request for Rev. SFG to be a guest speaker at our Social Justice Awards on October 9, expect to get an answer in the next week or so. This is the first time that UUSJ is opening up the awards to congregations in our database. Wouldn't be surprised if we see some new UU congregations receiving these awards. We're a little stalled on implementing our grant from the UU Funding Program, which is centered on our Environmental and Economic Justice work, mostly environmental. The Environmental Action Team didn't yet identify partners representing impacted persons with whom we can center our advocacy work, a key component. Rev. Peggy and Chloe offered to share some ideas offline with Pablo about possible partners.
6. Financial Update: Mariano Vera, treasurer, noted that last fiscal year's Actuals compared to Approved (amended) Budget look good. Mariano will focus on a polished report for the September meeting, and when he finalizes the report for July, it will be placed on the UUSJ website (About-governance documents-board documents).
7. Motions to Approve:
  - a. Charlotte made a motion to approve the proposed chair of the Membership Committee, Rev. Peggy Clarke. Beyssa Buil seconded the motion, and it was passed by the Board.
  - b. Chloe Emily Ockey, Chair of Nominating Committee, made a motion to approve a proposed member of the Nominating Committee – Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons. Beyssa Buil seconded the motion, and the motion was passed.
  - c. Rev. Eleanor Piez, Chair of Development Committee, moved to approve the proposed additional members of the Development Committee – Norma Flores Lopez, Kat Donovan and David Strauss (Non-Trustee). Charlotte Jones-Carroll seconded, and the motion was passed.

- d. Norma Flores Lopez, Chair of Finance Committee, agreed to the motion to approve proposed members of the Finance Committee -- Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons, Charlotte Jones-Carroll, with Treasurer Mariano Vera an ex-officio member as provided in the bylaws. The motion passed.
- e. Rev. Peggy Clarke, just-approved Chair of Membership Committee, moved to approve the proposed members –Beyssa Buil, Dr. Serena Lowe, John Peterson (former chair, non-trustee member). Beyssa Buil seconded and the motion passed. Mariano Vera has noted he is willing to be an advisor from time to time.
8. Notes from Pablo regarding Standing Committees: Membership and Development have a team of volunteers waiting and ready to help! Pablo will help find people to fill out these committees as needed. The goal should be to have a group of people willing to do the work with the committees providing oversight.
9. Authorizing Board Chair and Treasurer on SunTrust Account: Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons moved to authorize Mariano Vera and Charlotte Jones-Carroll to undertake transactions on the UUSJ bank account. Rev. Peggy seconded, and the motion passed.
10. Authorizing Board Chair and Treasurer on TD Ameritrade Account: Rev. Eleanor Piez moved to authorize Mariano Vera and Charlotte Jones-Carroll to handle transactions for any donated shares held in this account. Rev. Joseph seconded and the motion passed.
11. Orientation: Given lack of time and a desire to discuss Pablo De Jesus' [Google Board Deck](#) recently circulated as an informational presentation, the orientation based on policies and bylaws was moved to the end of the agenda (and subsequently had to be rescheduled). Pablo reviewed the slides summarizing the last 18 months of UUSJ work, along with moral owners. He is planning individual meetings with each board member to discuss mutual thoughts about the organization's work and that of the board.
12. Future Meeting Dates & Times: Next meeting is September 16 at 6 P.M. Eastern. Plan for three hours. Next meetings are planned for December 16, March 17, and June 16. The board discussed whether it made sense to have three-hour meetings. This amount of time is needed, people agreed, to get through the meeting, but the evening slot for most did not seem ideal for a long meeting, so possible morning hours were discussed (10 a.m.- 1 pm ET). A doodle poll will be sent out closer to September 16 to seek consensus.
13. Discussion on priorities: As several board members could not extend beyond 9 pm ET, the needed discussion of revising policy priorities will be rescheduled to September. Serena Lowe gave a quick update on the work of the PARC (Policy and Advocacy Review Committee, a special committee set up last FY). She shared bar graphs showing that respondents to a survey of 200+ UUs affiliated with UUSJ in some way gave top priority to racial justice, which UUSJ had previously only attempted to integrate into the other four areas (democracy, environment, immigration, economic inequality). However, the same respondents, when asked what they would volunteer to work on, had a different set of priorities. To follow up on gathering more information to prepare for the future discussion, it was moved and seconded to continue the PARC as a special committee. Given that a quorum remained, the board approved this motion. Serena is willing to continue her role, and Rev. Peggy was interested in joining. We will review this in September to assure all board members are in tune with this.

Chloe Emily Ockey, Secretary



Signature

Aug 31, 2021

Date

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