

Minutes for UUSJ Board of Trustees Meeting January 20, 2023 (all times in Eastern)

In Attendance: Charlotte Jones-Carroll, Chloe Emily Ockey, Leon Winston, Rev. Kristen Schmidt, Rev. Peggy Clarke, Vonna Heaton, Pablo De Jesus, Meleah Houseknecht, Johannes Favi, Norma Flores Lopez, Serena Lowe

1:00 pm Welcome (chair) and chalice lighting (Rev. Peggy)

1:10 pm. Check-in – How are you feeling about UUSJ and your role as trustee?

- Looking for more connection within the board
 - At GA potentially, outside of that?
- Acknowledging the work is critical and important – how can we add value and efficiency as board members?
- Going to events helps some get looped in to the organization
- Getting UUSJ on the radar of more UUs around the country
- Wanting to get clarity on expectations for Board Members
- How can we support Pablo with the massive amount of work he is undertaking
- How can we live out our commitment to justice? Why are we taking this journey together?

1:35 pm. Determination of Quorum (Secretary) and approval of agenda

Motion to approve - Peggy

Second - Meleah

1:40 pm: Consent Agenda:

Minutes of September 2022 meeting and Action Team reports

Approved

1:45 pm: Executive Director updates: Susan Frederick Gray Webinar, equity mapping training, communications assistant hiring, upcoming advocacy plans

- Democracy Action Report - Paulette will post hopefully later today
- We do not have active volunteer teams for environment or economic inequality teams
- February 2nd - the Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick Gray
 - 70 reservations so far - we need to promote!
 - Finalizing questions
 - Financial goal: close to \$5000 if at all possible; right now at \$2500
 - One of our major donors has authorized us to launch and leverage a matching opportunity for UUSJ throughout the year (not just this event in particular)
 - Any advertising strategies that we have should be sent to Pablo
- Equity Mapping Training
 - Successfully registered 110 people - about 89 showed up the first night
 - Some folks found it really empowering; others were worried at the beginning of the program but were satisfied by the end
- Communications Assistant

- The timetable has been delayed but going through a short list now
- We have a few people who have shown interest recently
- The right combination of what advocacy is about, communications as the forefront of their skills, hopefully with a UU background/affiliation.
- Upcoming advocacy plans
 - Two highly functioning teams are reviewing their priorities
 - Immigration Action team - Comprehensive immigration reform with important conversations of their values and principles
 - Democracy Action Team - still figuring out their priorities. Holding conversations on notions of bipartisanship in terms of their values and principles.
 - Pablo has announced UUSJ involvement with the Farm Bill due to alignment in our goals.
 - Working with Vonna for the past few months to bring on a fully accountable partner for this space - need to finalize the agreement, Pablo will announce as soon as it's finalized.
 - We've found a new onramp for potential involvement with calls during the lame duck Congressional period

1:55 pm: Nominating Committee Report and Consent on additional members

- 5 positions "opening" - NomComm will be reaching out to these Trustees
 - Rev. Peggy, Charlotte, Norma, Johannes, and Serena
 - Charlotte does not plan to run again
 - Serena will not be continuing past this year
- Also looking for potential others to fill those spots
- No objections, we have our committee!

2:05 pm: Program and Relationship Dynamics. UUSJ role within the UU Universe

Full board discussion of our program niche and potential, including collaborating with other UU social justice and advocacy entities

- What are the things that we can be doing as a board to really maximize our potential being around the country?
- Spreading the word of our unique roles as an organization in advocacy work and UUism
- A shared message that really speaks to how we're a part of something that's bigger than UUSJ and ourselves.
- Living out their faith through action and policy work
- Make a connection to personal/local interests; federal policy seems far away to many
- Providing resources to help inform and bring home values of what we do
- Creating a new outlet through social media to reach a different demographic than what we currently have
- More carefully assessing our strengths and means of creation
- A potential shift in thinking across UUism and all liberal thinkings - away from individual need, more towards access and equity
- Continuity and succession planning can help us with sustainability

- We need to be intentional in terms of work. We are very limited with only having two part time staff people
- Only two of our Priorities have a solid group leading the work

2:35 pm: Financial matters:

- We do not have a built in grant writing capacity
- Overall status: we look good as of the end of December due to some solid fundraisers but that is because December was as usual a good month for income

2:35 pm: Treasurer's Report (Mariano)

- Mariano is not present for health reasons, Report is postponed

2:45 pm: Development Committee (Norma)

- Discussing priorities and honing in on focus and support points
- How much is the board willing to do and commit to in terms of promotion and resource distribution?
 - Charlotte - not fond of phone calls but willing to reach out to five or so
 - Chloe - more behind the scenes and preparing, is not phone-phobic and can make phone calls as needed
 - Vonna - helping create a video, or something that can be distributed. Not fond of asking people for money or making phone calls
 - Rev. Peggy - Writing, working on social media, other UUs who are gaining some traction, not fond of phone calls
 - Serena - not fond of phone calls to a point; thinking of ways for more targeted outreach
 - Meleah - wants to raise the profile of the organization within the Twin Cities. Having strengthened resources that will show the value of UUSJ. Can make phone calls as needed.
 - Kristin – make phone calls as needed

3:25 pm: Other business. – June 16 Board meeting as hybrid in person (DC) and zoom?

- Will consider other options as that is busy Pre-GA week for some, looking into GA gatherings.
- Specific asks:
 - Spread the word about SFG event on Feb 2nd
 - Send a quote to Pablo and Paulette that UUSJ can use for Spring Appeal and general publicity. One paragraph as to why you work with UUSJ.
- Finance Committee going to be more active within the next 5 months on budget planning after Pablo proposes draft

3:35 pm: Closing and Adjournment

- Rev. Peggy: Chalice Extinguishing and Closing