

# Minutes

## Board of Trustees: June 15, 2022

### First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh

**Board Members Attending:** Heather Masterson, President (2023); Kyle Gracey, Treasurer (2023); Amy DeChicchis (2024); Bob Mitchell (2024); Kate Snow, Secretary (2023); Rob Schwartz (2024); Julie Downs (2022); Lee Carnes, Vice-President (2022)

**Board Members Absent:** Sam Hens-Greco (2022)

**Ex Officio Member:** Rev. Kate Walker, Minister

**Others:** Kurt Summersgill, Recording Secretary

**Visitors:** Christine Milcarek (2025); Sonia Wellington; Raeann Olander (2025)

1. **Call to Order (7:00) (Heather)**
2. **Opening Words (Lee).** From Rachel Naomi Remen
3. **Welcoming Guests (Heather)**
4. **Announcements (Lee)**
  - a. Election of Board Officers July 5 at 6:30.
  - b. The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be on Wednesday, July 20, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.
5. **Consent Agenda (Heather) (Documents)**
  - a. May 18, 2022 Board meeting minutes. Motion to approve by Heather, seconded by Amy. Approved 7 in favor.
  - b. Minister's Report.
  - c. LRED Report.
    - i. Campus Ministry/Young Adult Coordinator in August. Kyle asks about where the budget is for that. He will need more information from Erica and Rev. Kate.
    - ii. Amy had some concerns about the few number of people attended Erica's meeting on RE. She realizes that this will be evolving, especially the proposed hybrid nature of RE.
  - d. Safety Committee Report
  - e. Minutes of June Financial Committee meeting
  - f. Update on IT positions
6. Ratification of e-mail votes (Heather)
  - a. Appointment of two GA delegates on June 4: Sonia Wellington and Jim Marino. Moved by Heather. Second by Rob. Approved unanimously.
7. Appointing delegates for GA and Pittsburgh Cluster meetings (Rev. Kate) (document)
  - a. Kyle moved to propose written guidance for selecting delegates with an amendment (that the full Board votes for who will be a delegate). Lee seconded. After discussion the motion carries with 8 votes in favor.
  - b. Motion to appoint Ebe Emmons and Denice Galperin as GA delegates. Motion by Heather, Second by Kyle. Seven in favor, 1 abstention. Motion carries. This fills our delegate list.

8. 8<sup>th</sup> Principle Congregational Vote of October 23, 2022 (Rev Kate, Sonia) (document)
  - a. Rev Kate and Sonia have an outline of the steps to follow up to the congregational meeting. There will be a series of events with small groups having conversations about the proposed 8<sup>th</sup> principle with members of the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle Working Group. Rev. Kate will host three open congregation-based conversations. There will be a brief survey that will go out from the Racial Justice Task Force. Rev. Kate will do a service at the end of September that will include others, so all the information is not coming from her. If there is not strong support for it, the congregational meeting will be canceled.
  - b. Kyle: a special meeting quorum is 40% of the membership, with the vote percentage being a simple majority of those who are there. However, we would like way more than 40% and much higher than a simple majority, to represent strong support.
  - c. Motion by Kyle. That the Board call a special congregational meeting October 23 with the subject of voting on supporting the 8<sup>th</sup> principle proposal. Bob seconded. Motion carries with 8 votes in favor.
  - d. Julie offered to assist with survey construction.
9. Minister's Public Voice. (Rev. Kate) (document)
  - a. Rev Kate would like specific guidance in the governance manual affirming the Minister's Voice.
  - b. Kyle points out that the paragraph cannot just be inserted, as it conflicts with other parts of the manual. Kyle and Kate Snow have volunteered to work with the language. This an internal document and changes do not require a congregation vote. They will attempt to present the changes at the July or August meeting.
10. Quarterly Investment Report (Kyle) (8:00) documents
  - a. Committee actions
    - i. The committee made investment choices with the Phyllis Genszler bequest, combining it with the Donaldson Fund, making it the Donaldson/Genszler Fund, as they are both unrestricted bequests.
    - ii. Rebalance Vanguard Portfolio to restore the target allocation.
    - iii. Continue to move more money into more socially-responsible funds.
  - b. Endowments and Investments. See the spreadsheets. Generally speaking, the investments are doing well.
11. Vote: Allocate \$2000 from the Building Reserve to the New Equipment Reserve for upcoming IT costs (Kyle)
  - a. We need to replenish the IT capital reserve. Initially the money will be used for a router, which is needed immediately and then it will begin to accrue for later purchases, such as computers, which will be needed either later this year or early next. Motion by Kyle. Second by Kate. Carried unanimously.
12. Debrief on Annual Congregational Meeting (Heather)
  - a. The hybrid format worked out well.
  - b. Some of those attending on-line could not figure out how to vote for everything (because they had not understood that they needed to vote in the morning, so they could not vote on the real-time vote in the afternoon). This was stressful for those coordinating the votes. The hybrid voting was a LOT of work.

- c. Rev. Kate suggested that if we buy a professional Zoom account, that will give us access to voting within Zoom.
- 13. Review Draft of Board Perpetual Calendar (Heather) Document
  - a. She appreciates any input on the calendar. A discussion ensued regarding timeframes and priorities. This will be an evolving document. The Board installation will be the Sunday after in-gathering.
- 14. Board Transition and Leadership (Heather)
  - a. The Board should be more pro-active for looking at the pipeline for officers and potential Board members.
  - b. Some congregations have a first-year Board member as Vice-president, who automatically advances to President in their second year.
  - c. With the current framework, Kyle, as Treasurer, goes off the Board next summer. How are we going to deal with this? Because of the particular skills needed, there are some discussions already happening within Finance.
- 15. **Appreciations and Aspirations (All)**
- 16. **Adjourn (Heather) (9:02)**

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt Summersgill, Recording Secretary

Approved by the Board: July 17, 2022

Kate Snow, Secretary