

Minutes
Board of Trustees: March 20, 2024
First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh

Board Members Attending: Raeann Olander, President (2025); Brian Junker, Vice-President (2026); Kyle Gracey, Treasurer (2026); Nicholas Izzo, Secretary (2025); Rob Schwartz, (2024); Bob Mitchell (2024); Jean Schmidt (2026); Amy DeChicchis (2024), Christine Milcarek (2025)

Absent Members:

Ex Officio Member: Rev. Kate Walker, Minister

Others: Arthur Notaro, Recording Secretary

Visitors: Louie Portella, Jim Reitz, Cathy Rohrer, Lee Carnes, Stuart Hasting, *Sue Oerkvitz*

Call to Order (Raeann) (7:00) (Zoom and in person)

1. **Opening Words (Kyle)** Kyle read Human rights for all Minorities, from a speech by WEB Dubois Nov 7, 1945
2. **Welcoming Guests (Raeann)** Louie Portella, Jim Reitz, Sue Oerkvitz, Lee Carnes, Stuart Hastings
3. **Announcements (Brian)**
 - a. Next Board meeting: Wed., April 17, 2024
 - b. April Opening Words: Nick
 - c. Committee reports due in April: Finance, Nominating, Personnel, Prog Endowments, VIM
4. **Consent Agenda (Raeann) (Documents)**
 - a. Draft minutes from February board meeting. Motion to accept (with edits) by Kyle, discussion about church relative activities and retaining only control over church only. strike the line. Motion carries unanimously. Raeann moves to approve.
 - b. Minister's Report. (Document)
 - i. Kate - nothing bad, Bob mentioned to add training note
 - c. Treasurer's Report (document)
 - i. nothing noted
 - d. Committee reports:
 - i. Building - Nick will incorporate comments from Bob into the report
 - ii. COSM - no comments to add
 - iii. Finance - no comments to add
 - iv. Safety - no report to review
 - e. Board Priorities update
no comments or concerns
5. **Vote on update to budget (Kyle)**

There are three changes of significance to previously approved budget:

 - a. Updated income estimate resulting from appeal to congregation in January. About \$10,000 in increased pledges are reflected in the new budget

- b. Correction of error in internal communication regarding health insurance which was underestimated, added about \$5000 to spending in budget
 - c. Change to a smaller copier cut lease costs starting in April.
 - d. Overall the budget changed from having a deficit of \$6000 to having a surplus of \$2700 for the year.
 - e. Motion by Kyle to accept the revised budget and replace the prior 2024 budget. Rob seconds the motion. Unanimous approval.
6. **Board Communication on “closing the budget gap”**
 Jean asked that the results of the appeal to the congregation be communicated to the congregation. Individuals should be thanked for increasing their pledge, fulfilling their pledge, or making special gifts. Stewardship committee decided that a thank you should be signed by the board. Brian suggested making a statement in the newsletter, and something brief from the pulpit. Raeann - will work on a draft for review. Jean will work on two letters to say thank you. Rob proposes Raeann will sign the letters only.
7. **Board Committee vacancies and Nominating Committee**
 Raeann presented a summary of opening in committees.
 Several ideas were brainstormed for recruiting member for committees and the board.
8. **Fantasy Auction brainstorming**
 Ideas were brainstormed for positioning the Fantasy Auction.
9. **Statement on Alignment of activities with Church Values and Principles**
 The issue of aligning activities on church property vs off property was discussed. It was decided that the current policy cover church property only and that Rev Kate will consult with Council of Communities on policy for off property participation. Brian proposes to draft a further draft (6) to add a bullet and clarify that off-site events could be considered by the Council on Communities to distribute via email by a future date.
10. **Suggestions for Future Business (All)**
- a. Annual meeting - Kate thought on upcoming opportunities for annual meeting as thanks to the principles, now on to value statements - what do we recite in worship
 - b. Kate - Black Lives Matter banner is in poor shape and no longer secure. Should it be removed for posterity? What do we do now? Rev. Kate happy to draft questions and process.
 - c. Jean - proposes Topic of Reparations on an institutional level
 - d. Bob - letter sign on to Senator Casey about asking EPA to back off efforts, to remove signatures
11. **Appreciations and Aspirations (All)**
12. **Adjourn** (Raeann) (Time)

Respectfully submitted,
 Arthur Notaro, Recording Secretary

Approved by the Board: April 17, 2024
 Nick Izzo, Secretary