

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana

Seeking the Spirit, Building Community, Changing the World

Approved Board Minutes

March 21, 2018



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Board members attending: Von Welch, Steven Gilbert, Helmut Hentschel, Michelle Monroe-Cook, Sandra Churchill, Sharon Wiseman, Hans Kelson (Youth Liaison)

Not attending: Pat Brantlinger

Ministers attending: Reverend Scott McNeill

Submitted by: Steven Gilbert

Appended Documents:

- A. Associate Minister's Report (Rev. McNeil)
- B. Chair's Report to the Board for March (Von Welch)
- C. Policy Amendment on Operational Reserve and Endowment (Von Welch)
- D. Adopted Policy on Weapons and Firearms (Michelle Monroe-Cook)

I. Call to Order (Von Welch)

Von Welch called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

II. Chalice Lighting and Reading (Michelle Monroe-Cook)

III. Check-in (All)

IV. Approval of the Minutes (Steven Gilbert)

Steven moved for approval of the February minutes. Michelle seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously by the board.

V. Associate Minister's Report (Reverend McNeil)

Reverend McNeil delivered his report to the board (see Appendix A attached)

VI. Old Business

A. Weapons Policy (Michelle Monroe-Cook)

Von shared a letter from a member of the congregation urging action on adoption of a weapons policy. Michelle presented a proposal developed in consultation with Von Welch, Revs. Macklin & McNeil, John Summerlot and Amy Jackson of Congregation Beth Shalom for a proposed addition to the Board policies that would ban firearms and weapons on church property with exceptions for law enforcement or security personnel. The proposal included suggested language for the Operations Policy the Senior Minister might choose to use in response to the new Board Policy.

The proposal included elements of similar policies currently in force at Congregation Beth Shalom and Indiana University. After considerable debate and discussion on the specifics of the language, a single statement (Appendix D, attached) emerged which Michelle moved be adopted as board policy. Von seconded the motion, which was then approved unanimously.

Based on this board policy, the Senior Minister is expected to make supporting changes to the Operations Policy, considering the suggested wording in the proposal.

B. SPF Committee Legality (Von Welch)

Von reported that the SPF committee had approved funding for the board to seek an opinion from attorney Paige Freitag on the legal standing of the SPF

committee, as per concerns that had been brought forward at the February meeting. Von has contacted Paige who has agreed to review the report on the matter discussed at the February Board meeting.

C. Operational Reserve and Endowment (Von Welch)

Von moved for approval of a board policy amendment regarding the operational endowment and operational reserve as presented in Appendix C. Helmut seconded and the board approved the amendment unanimously.

D. April 14 Pledge Day Updates/Planning (Rev. McNeil)

Rev. McNeil reported that plans for the April 14 pledge day activities are proceeding apace and a fine day is anticipated for all.

E. Letter of Support Update (Von Welch)

Von reported that the letter of support provided at an earlier meeting for the African films project proposed by Martha Foster and others has been updated (See Reports to the Board, Appendix B)

VII. Monitoring (per Board Policies, Section IV)

A. Board Job Description Updates (Von Welch)

Von reported that job descriptions for board positions have been updated by current board members. He asked Michelle Monroe-Cook, as the Board's liaison to the Leadership Cultivation Committee, to make sure that committee is aware of the new descriptions.

B. Report from "Coffee with the Board" (Von Welch)

Nothing new to report at this time.

VIII. New Business

No new business was introduced.

IX. Executive Session

Board entered executive session at 8:55 p.m.

X. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn by Sharon and seconded by Sandy was approved at 8:57 p.m.

APPENDIX A

Report for Board from Associate Minister:

Our recent involvement in the larger community (Bloomington):

Reverend Mary Ann and Reverend Emily joined with a handful of other UUs and many other people in the city to attend the final of 3 workshops regarding bias; Mary Ann has already brought some of that back into worship and meetings and folks will continue to do so.

Judy Berkshire has begun planning for our annual Ramadan collaboration with the Islamic Center

I'm speaking at an IU Honors event on April 15 (the Sunday after Pledge Day)

Our event with Diane Kondrat regarding End of Life issues was a success, announced in the Herald-Times (although the information about time was incorrect, so they issued a correction) and we did some advertising via Facebook, reaching out to people who had specified an interest in live theatre, education opportunities, etc.

We have some updates on our work within the larger UUA:

General Assembly preparation (Kansas City this year) we have 11 delegates spots to fill. No MidAmerica conference this year because GA is so close – business meeting at the beginning of GA (Wednesday)

There is a survey from the Commission on Appraisal about what they should be studying over the next few years – they ask about the following topics: 5th Principle (Democracy), Support for Religious Professionals of Color, Balance between Tradition and New, and UU Existence and Longevity. The survey is available at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdIjDozBISiGLwt8VmEHQu8B32HyBwQex6OdTRkhpBlxRRBRw/viewform?usp=sf_link and Iris Kiesling and I hope to offer a discussion forum in the Spring that gets people up to date on issues related to GA, this survey, and other things in the UUA.

We did fill out a survey as part of our annual certification process – in part it asked about our biggest challenge, success, hope for UUA involvement. Along with a real answer, we mostly highlighted a fall service we're planning where we will integrate Michael Jackson's "Thriller", as well as Mary Shelley's Frankenstein (this year is a major anniversary of the book and places around the world are highlighting it in the fall).

We had a visit from Samuel Prince, a member of the UU Funding panel grant (written by Racial Justice and Adult Religious Education, regarding a documentary series and curriculum related to documentaries about Africa from Africans). Things went well – kudos to Sharon and Dan Wiseman, Martha Foster and Earon Davis.

And I offered some updates regarding staff.

APPENDIX B

Reports to Board

Von Welch, President

March 21st, 2018

Old Business

Visioning and Strategic Planning (Rev. McNeil)

Weapons Policy (Michelle Monroe Cook)^{[[L]]}_{[[SEP]]}

A letter from a congregation member was received by Von advocating for a weapons ban.

Update on February Action Item.

SPF Committee Legality (Von Welch)^{[[L]]}_{[[SEP]]}

Update on February Action Item. ([Original report.](#))

Operational Reserve and Endowment (MOTION) (Von Welch)^{[[L]]}_{[[SEP]]}

Update on February Action Item.

Von spoke with recent donor who indicated a desire to help with minister and staff salaries and she supported the idea of an endowment. Von is checking with Chris Haynes, SPFC Chair, with regards to the request to the SPFC in the proposed changes.

MOTION: Approve [proposed additions and changes to the Board Policies](#) to recognize Operational Reserve and Operational Endowment.

The [current Board Policies](#) may be found in our Google drive.

Pledge Day updates/planning (Rev McNeil)

This is our last Board meeting before pledge day on April 14th.

Letter of Support updated

Previously, as reported in the September 2017 minutes, I provided Martha Foster a letter of support for her proposal to the Fund UU Social Responsibility and the Fund for Unitarian Universalism. Earlier this month Samuel Prince from the UU Fund visited to provide feedback to Martha on the proposal. It is being re-submitted under a new title, "Africa: A Different Story - Disrupting White Supremacy." I provided an [updated letter of support](#). A [copy of the proposal](#) is available in the Board Gdrive folder, under Correspondence.

Monitoring

Board position descriptions. (Von Welch)

Updates to the Vice President, Secretary, and Vice President descriptions have been received and the appropriate documents updated in the [position descriptions](#) folder.

New Business

No new business.

APPENDIX C

Proposed Board Policy Amendment Regarding Operational Endowment and Operational Reserve

March 20, 2018

Preamble

For some time, UUCB has maintained an operational reserve and an operational endowment. The goal of this amendment to the Board Policies is to recognize and document these funds and establish reporting expectations for them.

Proposed New Sections

Section III.I: Operational Reserve

UUCB shall maintain an Operational Reserve which shall receive any surplus from the annual operating budget and may also receive donations. The Operational Reserve may be drawn from to balance the annual budget when approved by the congregation. It may be drawn from to cover unexpected shortfalls in income in the annual budget when approved by the Board. Any interest, or other income, generated by the Operational Reserve shall be deposited into the Reserve. The Senior Minister shall include the Operational Reserve in the financial reporting to the Board at least annually.

Section III.J: Operational Endowment

UUCB shall maintain an Operational Endowment. The Operational Endowment may receive donations, and funds may be transferred to the Operational Endowment from the Operational Reserve when approved by the congregation.

The Special Purposes Fund Committee is requested to manage the investment of the Operational Endowment on behalf of the congregation and provide the Board with a financial report twice per year. Distributions from the Operational Endowment will be used for operations and will be included in the annual budget as income.

Proposed Modifications to the Board Policies

Additions are **underlined and in bold**.

Policy V.A. Senior Minister Reporting

- April:
 - Statement of Cash Flow (II.E: Financial Condition) **and financial report on the Operational Reserve.**

Policy V.B. Reports from Special Purpose Fund Committee

In August and February, the Special Purpose Funds Committee will provide a written report on the six-month summary of performance of invested funds, **including the Operational Endowment.**

APPENDIX D ADOPTED BOARD POLICY ON FIREARMS AND WEAPONS

BOARD POLICIES

Policy II.B: Congregation, Staff and Volunteer Treatment and Safety

Wearing, storage, transportation or presence of firearms on church property or during sponsored activities is prohibited. Only law enforcement officers and security personnel who are licensed and trained to provide security for church property, personnel, members, and visitors are permitted to wear or otherwise possess firearms while carrying out their official duties at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington.

Notes:

Aligns with Ends Statement:

Building Community

7. We responsibly manage our staff, volunteers, resources, and facilities.

Board proposes that the ministers add the following to Operations Policies - March, 2018

GENERAL POLICY

1.14 Possession of Firearms and Weapons

Wearing, storage, transportation or presence of firearms on church property or during sponsored activities is prohibited. The prohibition applies regardless of any permit to lawfully possess and carry a firearm. Only licensed, on or off duty law enforcement officers authorized to possess a firearm by the employing law enforcement agency are permitted to wear or otherwise transport firearms on church property. Possession of a dangerous article or substance that has the potential to be utilized as a weapon is also prohibited.

Definitions

Firearm – A gun, whether loaded or unloaded, that discharges shot or a projectile by means of an explosive, a gas, or compressed air

Church Property – Buildings, grounds, and land that are owned by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington (UUCB) or utilized by UUCB, via leases or other written agreements

Sponsored Activities – Any programs, services, activities, and special events occurring on church property or any property where the program, service, activity, or special event is sponsored by a church

committee, task force, or other group directly affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington

Other Policies for Easy Reference and Comparison

Indiana University

Possession of a firearm on Indiana University property is prohibited. The prohibition applies regardless of any permit to carry a firearm. The prohibition does not apply to law enforcement officers authorized to possess a firearm, either on or off duty, by the employing law enforcement agency. In rare cases, an exception to this policy may be granted for academic or research purposes. Such exception must be made by prior written authorization from the Superintendent of Public Safety and the campus police chief and the campus chancellor or provost. Possession of a dangerous article or substance as a potential weapon is also prohibited.

Congregation Beth Shalom

Congregation Beth Shalom prohibits the wearing, storage, transportation or presence of firearms on our property. Only licensed law enforcement officers, and security personnel who have specifically been recruited and trained by Beth Shalom to provide security for its premises, members, and visitors, are permitted to wear or otherwise transport firearms while carrying out their official duties at Beth Shalom.
