

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana

Seeking the Spirit, Building Community, Changing the World

Board Minutes

May 17, 2023



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Board members attending: Mary Craig, Drew Schrader, Regina DiLamore, Abby Gitlitz, Jane McLeod, Rich Slabach

Board Members Attending via Zoom: Linda Pickle

Board members absent: None

Ministers attending: Rev Connie Grant, Rev Emily Manvel Leite

Guests attending: Barb Backler and Sara Flint via Zoom

Submitted by: Regina DiLamore, Secretary

Attached Documents:

- A. Lead Minister's Report
- B. Draft UUCB Congregational Meeting Agenda

I. Call to Order and Chalice Lighting

President Abby Gitlitz called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm, and the chalice was lit. A quorum was in attendance.

II. Check-in

III. Approval of the Board Minutes

Abby Gitlitz moved to approve the April minutes. The motion carried.

IV. Reports

A. Lead Minister Report

Rev. Grant provided updates to the Board. As part of Lifespan Religious Education Stephanie Kimball is developing a plan for family involvement and support staffing of the Religious Education Coordinator and childcare staff positions. Church year 2024 planning is well underway. The coming-of-age program for 9th and 10th graders will be led by Stephanie Kimball. Religious Education Teacher Appreciation was held at the May 14 service. A call for volunteers was included in the order of service. Worship service planning and guests in the pulpit were discussed. Recruitment of the Welcoming Team has been completed and the team now has 8 participants. On May 28, six new members will be joining UUCB. The social justice task force is working on a way to be more visible. The new UUCB website will be unveiled on May 18, 2023. Rev. Grant's summer schedule was discussed by the Board.

The Lead Minister's report is provided in Attachment A.

V. New Business

A. Leadership Cultivation Committee Report

The purpose of leadership cultivation committee is to identify congregants to participate on the Board, Special Purpose Fund Committee, Leadership Cultivation Committee, and leadership positions on committees.

Engagement conversations are occurring, and an engagement lunch will be scheduled in the future.

The slate for the Congregational Meeting is below:

Bill Lonnberg: Treasurer, Board

Jane McLeod: Vice President, Board

Mary Craig, Member at Large, Board

Deb Hutton: Special Purpose Fund

B. Draft Congregational Meeting Agenda

The Board discussed the Draft Congregational Meeting Agenda and availability of reports.

A copy of the draft Congregational Meeting Agenda is provided in Attachment B.

VI. Old Business

A. Stewardship Update

Although pledges are about the same as at this time last year, the pledge drive is \$120,000 short of the goal. The stewardship committee is continuing to contact those who have not pledged yet this year. Drew Schrader stated that he will provide a pledge update before the Congregational Meeting.

B. Budget

Rich Slabach discussed the budget implications of the current pledges. The operating budget will be short \$76,000.

Funds in the operating reserve can be used to meet this shortfall, but this strategy is not sustainable. Abby Gitlitz commented that taking funds from the operating reserve may be concerning for an incoming minister. Linda Pickle suggested that we explain to the Congregation that the stewardship campaign has not reached its goal. The Board further discussed how the shortfall will impact the budget.

A message concerning the pledge shortfall was discussed. The message will be communicated in the pulpit on 5/28 and an email will follow.

Rev. Grant suggested the Board consider decreasing the fair share contribution to UUA and its impact on UUCB compared to drawing down operating reserves. Financial commitment as part of the by-laws was discussed.

The Board and Rev. Grant discussed that during the upcoming year the congregation will need to explore who UUCB is going to be in the future. This discussion must take place by November, when a package must be prepared for candidate ministers.

VII. Housekeeping

Sunday Announcements (good through July 30)

Prologue articles (good through July 31)

VIII. Topics for Future Consideration

A. Remote Participation in Congregational Meetings

A proposal will be made to change the by-laws to require that remote participation and voting will be allowed for in Congregational meetings.

B. By-laws

By-law amendments will be complete and ready for Board review in early September.

IX. Executive Session

The Board entered executive session at 8:24 p.m.

X. Adjournment

President Abby Gitlitz adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:40 p.m.

Attachment A

Date: May 17, 2023
To: Board of Directors
From: Rev. Connie Grant, Interim Lead Minister
Subject: Monthly Report, May 17, 2023

1. Reporting against Ends

Seeking the Spirit

a. Lifespan Religious Education

Stephanie Kimball is developing a plan for family involvement support staffing to encompass Religious Education Coordinator and childcare staff positions, facilitating parent participation in programming while ensuring that children are well cared-for by trained caregivers, as well as supporting children's religious education teachers. The ad for this is in today's Prologue.

Planning for the next church year is well underway.

Stephanie will lead the Coming of Age program, to be offered for 9th & 10th Graders. Emily is sharing information with Stephanie about how it has been done in the past.

This year's religious education teachers were appreciated at the May 14 service and reception.

A call for volunteers also went out in an insert in the order of service, noting some significant needs.

b. Worship service planning

Plan for June 25:

10:15 – 10:30 Music from Voces Novae

10:30 – 11:00 Community Hour (with lunch, games & activities)

11:00 – 12:30 Livestream of GA service

a. Working with the Worship Associates (including one newly-added), we are developing a schedule for upcoming months.

Plans so far

July 2 Connie

July 9 Rev. Forrest Gilmore, worship associate Jason Michálek

July 16 Madison Colquette, worship associate Erica Whichello

July 23 Connie or guest

July 30 Connie or guest

August 6 Worship Associates - Poetry

August 13 Connie or guest
August 20 Connie or guest
August 27 Barbara Child (emphasis on Chalice Circles)
Sept 3 Connie – The work that calls us
Sept 10 Ingathering (Connie, Worship Associates)

Building Community

- b. Recruitment of a Welcoming Team is nearly complete, including newer/younger members as well as long-term members. Their mission is to further a radically welcoming community by promoting ownership, action, and joy in hospitality at UUCB and further inspire the larger church community.
- c. As previously reported, involving congregants more deeply in the work of the church in meaningful (and visible) ways continues to be a major goal. Volunteering and recruitment is happening.
- d. Six new members are scheduled to join the church on May 28.

Changing the World

- a. As reported last month, Social Justice Task Forces continue to consider ways to be more visible and involve more congregants in the work they do, including a greater focus on related activities for the congregation in the months of their SJ moment.
- b. A review of current SJ activities, with the possibility of some major revamping of the Task Force structure, is in the works, with an event likely to be held at the beginning of August. Possibilities: a leadership group/steering committee; groupings of focus areas. Opportunities for congregants to offer ideas.

2. Technology and communication

- a. New website will be unveiled to the focus group and staff tomorrow. Hans will present the new website at the congregational meeting on June 4.

3. Staff

- a. Staff evaluations are underway. Planning to complete these by end of June.
- b. Monica Overman will be retiring as of June 30. A help wanted ad is in today's Prologue and will be posted on Indeed, Chamber of Commerce, etc.

4. My schedule

- a. I'll be attending GA in Pittsburgh from June 21 (missing the June Board meeting) through June 24. I'll be back for the June 25 service which will be a livestream of the GA closing service.
- b. I'll definitely be away from July 6 or so through July 18 or so for family vacation and will probably reschedule other time away later in the summer or early fall.

Attachment B

DRAFT UUCB Congregational Meeting, June 12, 2022

Check-In at ?? p.m. – Meeting Begins 2:30 p.m.

Item	Presenter(s)
1. Call to Order	Abby Gitlitz, President
2. Chalice Lighting & Opening Words	Rev. Grant
3. Introduction of Parliamentarian	Steve Dillon
4. Senior Minister Report	Rev. Connie Grant
5. Introduction of new staff, celebrating Monica	
6. Minister of Story and Ritual Report	Rev. Emily Manvel Leite
7. Technology Coordinator report	Hans Kelsen
8. Director of Religious Education	Stephanie Kimball.
9. Committee and Task Forces Updates	
a. Planned Giving	
b. Social Justice	
c. Special Purposes Fund Report	
10. Quorum Report	At Large Director
11. Leadership Cultivation Committee Report	
a. Motion to elect board slate Jane McLeod as vice president of the Board, Mary Craig as Board at Large Member, and Bill Lunnberg as Board Treasurer	
b. Motion to elect SPF Deb Hutton	
c. Welcome to New LCC Members	
12. Treasurer's Report and Motion to Approve 2023-2024 Budget Rich Slabach	
13. Motion for the Board of Directors to Approve the Congregational Meeting Minutes at a Future Board Meeting	Abby Gitlitz
14. Vote to Approve our 25% Sunday Plate Recipient	Abby Gitlitz
15. President and Vice President Report	Abby Gitlitz & Jane McLeod
16. Closing Words	Rev. Connie Grant
17. Motion to Adjourn	Abby Gitlitz