

First Unitarian Church of Des Moines

Board of Trustees Minutes | Tuesday December 19t 2023 at 6:00 PM

Stonewall Conference Room | Virtual Access via Zoom

Board Members: LeeAnn Back, Jeremy Guenther, Crystal Loving,
Natalie Mason, Heidi Lackmann, Walter Pearson

Staff: Interim Minister Rev. Meredith Garmon and Alice Stewart

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Board Vice President Jeremy Guenther.

Timekeeper: LeeAnn Back

Process Observer: Heidi Lackmann

Check-in: How are you doing?

Public Comment:

Linda Lemons spoke regarding the UUA's proposed Article II amendments. There is a planned sermon around these amendments 3/10/23 with forum after dedicated to church discussion. Requests Board play a role in the planning/running of that forum, also that the Board consider taking a straw poll at the annual meeting to get a sense of how congregation feels about the proposed amendments and that the Board consider establishing a denominational affairs committee.

Interim Minister's Report:

Invitation to a conversation about Transformation.

Executive Report:

Submitted in the board documents. Overall November was a strong month.

New Business

1. Updated Building Use Policy provided in the board documents. Will be posted online around the first of the year.
2. Committee Appointment: motion for appointment of Heidi Lackmann to the HR committee by Jeremy Guenther, seconded by Walter Pearson, unanimously approved.
3. Updated Board of Trustees Covenant: Updates discussed at Board retreat reviewed. Motion to approve updates by Walter Pearson, seconded by LeeAnn Back, unanimously approved.
4. Kudos: Discussion of Board kudos for Intercom for the month of January. Walter, LeeAnn, and Natalie will draft kudos and send to Natalie for submission in Intercom.
5. Absentee Board Member Policy Recommendations: recommendation from Governance committee is that any policy of the Board regarding attendance would be superseded by the By-Laws statement that a Board member can only be removed by a vote of the congregation at an annual or special meeting. Governance recommends a By-law amendment to address Board

Member attendance, which would also require a congregational vote. The Board is still seeking resolution to this issue, but if not resolved by May the Board will include a vote to remove/replace on the agenda for the annual meeting. The Board plans to review proposed By-Law amendments at the February board meeting.

Announcements:

Tuesday, January 16th at 6:00 PM is the next board meeting.

Coffee with the Board, Sunday, December 31st at 8:30 AM

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM by Jeremy Guenther.

Submitted by Natalie Mason