

**Called to Order:** 4:04 p.m. by President Betsy Rush.

**Board Attendees:** Trustees (Position): Tom Mosher (1), Doug Deaton (2), Dick Burkhart (3),  
Quorum Present Luba Johnston (5), and Betsy Rush (7)  
Lilia Riordan-Rogers (4) and Catherine Trestrail (6) were absent.  
Minister/Chief Executive: Todd Eklof (ex-officio). Recording Secretary: Marilyn Johnson.

T Mosher asked if holding the BoT meetings, a half-hour later, would make it easier for L Riordan-Rogers to attend. T Eklof said he would explore that with her.

**Agenda:** Approved as presented.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the November 2023 Board of Trustees (BoT) meeting approved as presented.

**Opening Words:** T Eklof quoted Howard Zinn, "Small acts when multiplied by millions of people can transform the world."

**Minister's Report:** T Eklof reported that he's taking care of several things in preparation for his February month-long break. A NAUA Yearly Summit is being planned, likely for the third weekend of October at UUCS. Hopefully, we could also organize some locals to host visitors in their homes.

He has more church visits planned for Salem, Oregon in March and Hayward, California in April.

**Lifetime Member:** After discussion, T Mosher moved and D Burhart seconded approval by our Senior Minister, and review of Article II, Section 6 of the UUCS Bylaws, that Steve Johnston meets the spirit and intent of Article II, Section 6 and therefore qualifies for UUCS Lifetime Membership status and is hereby granted such status, including recording in official UUCS records; and further that a letter, on UUCS letterhead and signed by our Senior Minister and President of this Board of Trustees, be sent to Mr. Johnston and further that this motion be included in the letter. The motion carried by unanimous consent without objection.

**Shared Ministry Team Report:** Lynn Jinishian reported that the Shared Ministry Team (SMT) held conversations with several congregation members about possibly leaving the UUA and presented a summary report, attached.

Their report describes how they

- 1) shared their own team member opinions/biases;
- 2) reasons they see to leave;
- 3) reasons they see to stay; and
- 4) congregation members' questions, responses, and thoughts, including more things to consider.

More due diligence and discussions are needed to identify realistic options and collect thoughts from more congregation members. Any potential decision to leave the UUA would be brought to the entire congregation for a motion and vote by the entire congregation.

B Rush moved and T Mosher seconded that in the interest of transparency and possibly stimulating discussion, the SMT report be published in the SUUN with an introductory paragraph stating there is no set timeline for any action and no action, if any, would be taken until after the 2024 UUA General Assembly. The motion carried by majority trustee vote of four with D Deaton opposed.

**By Law Amendment:** After discussion and the addition of a third option, T Mosher moved and D Deaton seconded that the following three options regarding possible wordings for a single sentence amendment to the UUCS Bylaws, regarding adding to our the Bylaws recognition of our Memorial Garden, be sent for review/comment to the Memorial Garden Team, with the intent that the Team offer advice, including possibly that such an amendment isn't needed or alternate wording to the options presented. Upon return of advice/recommendation, the Board may then decide whether to propose a Bylaw amendment regarding the Memorial Garden to the Congregation during the 2024 Annual Meeting. Option 1, 2, and 3, as a proposed Article I, Section 8, are:

- OPTION 1: Section 8. UUCS shall establish and maintain, in perpetuity, a Memorial Garden.
- OPTION 2: Section 8. UUCS shall establish and maintain, in perpetuity, a Memorial Garden where names of members and friends may be engraved and remembered.
- OPTION 3: No amendment needed.

The motion carried by unanimous consent without objection.

**BoT Budget Priorities:** B Rush mentioned the BoT will get involved in 2024-2025 fiscal year budgeting by early March. Priorities are currently focused on staff and basic church operations.

**SUUN Policy & Ops Team:** B Rush brought up a recent issue related to a July 2020 Operations Team policy about not publishing event notices in the SUUN and other UUCS publications from unaffiliated/former church members/groups/teams.

This discussion led to another issue on the newly revised Article 9 Section 1 ByLaw, which basically prohibits UUA or UUSC names being used outside of our Church unless approved by the BoT. The ByLaw may be too restrictive and even in conflict with T Eklof's Ministerial Agreement.

These two issues will be discussed more as future BoT agenda item(s).

**Operations Team Report:** D Deaton reported off Rebecca's notes that the Operations Team is working to

1. Develop a preliminary 2024-25 budget with the Budget Summit meeting scheduled for 1 p.m. March 6<sup>th</sup> via Zoom.
2. Find a contractor to install new fire doors in the Religious Education wing.
3. The Social Justice Team has stepped up to operate the lobby coffee cart in hopes of raising money for the Make-It-Happen Fund, until church youth are ready to use the cart.

**Policies & Procedures Project:** T Mosher proposed several clarifications/additions, highlighted in blue of the documents he provided to the BoT via email:

- 1) Provide easy, timely access to audio/visual BoT meeting recordings via the church website, which is handled by office staff.
- 2) Clarify the BoT authority to present ByLaw Amendments to the congregation.
- 3) Allow the BoT to review/comment on member proposed ByLaw changes prior to presentation to entire congregation, including the possibility for a majority BoT vote to reject a member's proposal.
- 4) Specify that the BoT can assign the Executive Committee actions.
- 5) Add that Trustees shall not make any effort to influence Ops-Team or Operations Manager.

This will be discussed more as a future BoT agenda item.

**Old Business:** None

**Other Business:** a) Volunteer for Agenda Setting: T Mosher  
b) February BOT Meeting Date: February 28, 2024

**Adjourned:** 5:32 p.m.

**Next BoT Exec Committee Meeting:** February 21, 2024 4:00 p.m. (T Mosher floating Trustee)

**Next BoT Meeting:** February 28, 2024 4:00-5:30 p.m.

**Attachment:** Shared Ministry Team (SMT) Report on Discussions about Leaving or Staying in the UUA

**Should UUCS Leave or Stay a Member of the UUA?**  
**UUCS Shared Ministry Team**  
**January 10, 2024**

**Personal Opinions Acknowledged by the Shared Ministry Team**

- We should leave the UUA. I'm angry at the UUA and happy with the prospect of our church being the first to resign from this illiberal institution.
- I favor leaving and am angry that our minister is still being defamed on the UUA website.
- I've been shocked by what's going on in the UUA since attending the GA of 2019. It doesn't feel like I belong to this organization. I wouldn't if it weren't for the local church (UUCS)
- I was shocked by GA 2019 and was in disbelief about what some were saying. I was disappointed with some who walked away from our church and glad some did. The Seven Principles crucial; tossing them aside derogates them.
- I'm still undecided, not angry, but disappointed.

**Reasons Why We Should Leave**

- We have different values than the UUA is presenting.
- Doctrine of covenantal relationship with UUA is unacceptable.
- Treating all whites as racists and white supremacists is unacceptable.
- That the UUA will recommend ministers on us in their mold is unacceptable.
- We need to support Todd who has been treated in ways against our principles of freedom, reason, and tolerance.
- We can find replacement needs for RE and other services from other places.
- Historic UU principles are bedrock foundation. Quitting an association which has demonstrated its disdain for them in many observable acts and communications is justified.
- The UUA response to us suggests it believes our congregation is ill and needs fixing.
- The UUA unethically and secretly conspired with a few members of our congregation without care for the damage they were doing.
- We're not paying anyway. We're already not supporting them, but for a token amount.
- That they no longer value individual dignity and are pushing collectivism, is the antithesis of Unitarianism. They represent the opposite of our values.
- They are unresponsive to views not their own.
- Squelch and ignore and punish dissenting voices.
- Violate their own bylaws (didn't contact us before supporting new church in Spokane, illegally blocked Todd from running for UUA President, ignore the required to have two more candidates.
- Have made a farse of democracy.

**Reasons UUCS Should Stay**

- Historically we have had district help finding ministers.
- Need to stay for the services we receive.
- We need a national presence and connection recognizable for new members coming from other UU congregations.
- UUCS should stay as long as the seven principles stay intact.
- Staying will facilitate a healing process with INUUC.
- Stay in both UUA and NAUA while cost is low, and we are hoping for change.
- As members we can still vote and have voice in the UUA's direction.
- Stay until the kick us out/Make them kick us out.

**Questions and Responses to some of the Reasons**

- There are no longer UUA Districts or District offices and staff, and the UUA is currently far short of being able to meet the demand for ministerial supply.
- What sort of minister would the UUA process give to UUCS?
- We would be members of NAUA, which is a national organization.
- We don't receive any services from the UUA except some benefits for staff.
- Suggesting it would facilitate a healing process with INUUC raises the question whether this is a UUCS goal.
- Staying in both UUA and NAUA while cost is low, and we are hoping for change, and voting for change, is a reasonable point.
- Stayin the UUA until they kick us out to help further prove they are being authoritarian is also a reasonable point.