

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana

Seeking the Spirit, Building Community, Changing the World

Approved Board Minutes

March 16, 2022



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Board members attending: Stuart Yoak, Steven Gilbert, Rich Slabach, Linda Pickle, Jane McLeod

Board members absent: Abby Gitlitz, Drew Schrader

Ministers attending: Revs. Bill Breeden, Emily Manvel Leite. Michele Grove,

Present by invitation:

Submitted by: Steven Gilbert, Secretary

Attached Documents:

- A. Minister of Story and Ritual Report (Rev. Leite)

I. Call to Order

President Stuart Yoak called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Chalice Lighting

Rev. Leite lit the chalice.

III. Check-in

IV. Approval of the Minutes

Stuart Yoak moved approval of the February Board minutes. After a second, the motion carried.

V. Ministers' Reports

A. Senior Minister's Report

Rev. Macklin presented an oral status report focusing especially on events related to the winding down of her ministry.

B. Minister for Story and Ritual

Rev. Leite addressed questions based on the contents of her submitted report, shown in Attachment A.

C. Minister Emeritus

Rev. Breeden provided a very brief oral report.

D. Religious Education Consultant's Report

Rev. Michele Grove addressed questions related to her report on religious education, but declined to furnish a formal report due to unresolved issues. Will report later on current status of RE.

VI. Old Business

A. Annual Pledge Drive

Rev. Macklin outlined her intentions with regard to the “March Madness” kickoff of the UUCB pledge drive. Goal is to raise \$650K prior to her leaving in July.

B. Interim Minister Search Committee Update

Stuart Yoak reviewed the procedures and time line for the upcoming search for an interim minister. Committee will meet in late March to complete data input to UUA for the search.

C. Connections Coordinator Search Update

Stuart Yoak reported that we have no active candidate for Connections Coordinator at present. He will send a note to all members of the church announcing a wider search after meeting with Carol to draft a position description for distribution. Rev. Macklin suggested raised the possibility of hiring an interim for six months to keep the position going, which was accepted as a possibility.

VII. New Business

A. Expanding Communications with the Congregation

Stuart Yoak raised issues related to the need to improve Board communications with the congregation. He specifically noted concerns expressed by the Humanist Group about perceived dependence on UUA for the interim ministerial search. Suggestions were raised without a specific resolution.

B. Honoring Rev. Macklin’s Ministry Update

The Board discussed steps to honor Rev. Macklin’s ministry prior to her leaving this summer. Rev. Leite included the status of such efforts in her report (Appendix A). Rev. Breeden is contemplating a par 3 golf tournament in her honor. More to come.

C. LCC Update

Stuart Yoak reported the need to appoint a new chair of the LCC in June.

D. NEST Committee

Jane McLeod reported NEST plans to progressively open up the church in March and April including the return of the choir, candle lighting by members, passing of the collection basket and a return to two services.

VIII. Powerful Question

The board and ministers moved on to discuss the powerful question for the month, which is: How can we as lay leaders inspire and engage our congregation as we move through the transitions that lie ahead? Numerous ways to make connections were suggested.

IX. Executive Session

The Board entered executive session at 8:03

X. Adjournment

President Yoak adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

ATTACHMENT A

March 2022 Report to the Board
Minister of Story and Ritual
Emily Manvel Leite

Important things for the board to know:

I am working with Bill Breeden, Licia Weber, Beth Hollingsworth, Celeste McGregor, and Drew Schrader on events surrounding Mary Ann Macklin's departure. We are looking at an event in the afternoon of June 19 or June 12 at the church, as well as more casual events in May. The date for the big event will be finalized now that Mary Ann is back from sabbatical. I will keep the board updated on plans, via email when things are secrets from Mary Ann.

We are looking at the possibility of taking a special collection to support the UU Service Committee in their work in Ukraine. Again, this will be finalized now that Mary Ann is back.

It has come to my attention that people are feeling a little distant from the board after two years apart. I think it would be helpful for board members to make themselves available for conversation when you are at the service—maybe by inviting people to find you during fellowship time. Perhaps it is time to resurrect the Lucy Booth, maybe on a weekly basis at first?

Now that our Our Whole Lives group is done meeting, we hope to move fellowship hour back to fellowship hall. Any quiet urging board members can do to encourage folks to head over to fellowship hall following the service would be most welcome.

The Covid Memorial Installation is about halfway done, and there are another 140 scrolls in the hands of people who are writing at the moment. We will be holding a multifaith commemoration of two years living with Covid next week, March 23, from 6:30-7:30PM. Sylvia McNair will be singing, and faith leaders from several traditions will be participating along with all three of our ministers. Publicity about the memorial installation is forthcoming in the Herald Times and Bloom magazine. We hope to complete the project for Memorial Day weekend, and invite public viewing then.