

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana
Seeking the Spirit, Building Community, Changing the World



Board Minutes

February 21, 2024

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Board members attending in person: Mary Craig, Drew Schrader, Regina DiLamore, Bill Lonnborg, Jane McLeod, Linda Pickle, Abby Gitlitz

Board members attending via Zoom: None

Board members absent: None

Ministers attending via Zoom: Reverend Connie Grant

Guests attending in person: Andrew Appel

Guests attending via Zoom: None

Submitted by: Regina DiLamore, Secretary

Attached Documents:

- A. SPF Report

B. Lead Minister's Report

I. Call to Order and Chalice Lighting

President Abby Gitlitz called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm. The chalice was lit, and a quorum was in attendance.

II. Check-in

III. Approval of the Board Minutes

Secretary Regina DiLavore moved to approve the January 2024 Board Meeting minutes. Linda Pickle, Member at Large, seconded the motion and the motion carried.

IV. Reports

A. Special Purposes Fund (SPF) Report

The SPF Committee provides a report to the Board twice per fiscal year.

Highlights from the February 2024 SPF report include:

- Overall holdings are up 5.2%
- Operations Endowment is up 7%
- Operational Available down 19% (due to transfer to operational fund)
- Special Purposes Endowment up 7%
- Special Purposes Available up 9.1%
- Chris Haynes donated \$25,000 for a memorial gazabo in honor of Ann Haynes.
- \$21,500 was transferred from SPF to UUCB for duct heater installations.
- \$1,500 was transferred from SPF to Monika Herzig for musical composition.
- The SPF committee received a request for funds from Guy Loftman to replace the water fountain with a water bottle refill station.
- The SPF committee received a request for funds to replace the drain in the courtyard. The drain replacement will be funded either by SPF or the maintenance funds.
- SPF is currently working on obtaining signatories for the Vanguard account.

The Board discussed the process of accepting large donations for specific purposes. This process is silent in the Bylaws; however, the Policy Working

Group is developing a Gift Acceptance Policy. Linda Pickle, Member-At Large, is developing a gift acceptance procedure.

The SPF Report is provided in Attachment A.

B. Interim Lead Minister Report

Highlights from the interim lead minister's report include:

- UUCB should consider discussing moving to two services in the near future.
- 560 members were certified to the church on February 5, 2024.
- Jeff Stone has expressed his intention to retire as of June 30, 2024.
- Reverend Grant will be at a conference March 18-22, 2024.
- Reverend Grant will be at a UUMA chapter meeting April 21-28, 2024.
- See Lead Minister's Report for more details on *Reporting on the Ends*.

The Lead Minister's Report is provided in Attachment B.

C. Pledge Drive Report

Reverend Grant and Drew Schrader, Member-at-Large, reported on behalf of the Pledge Committee.

The committee is currently setting dates, events, and the final budget for the pledge drive, including the launch, canvassing, and testimonials. The kickoff is scheduled for March 3, concluding on March 24. The focus of the pledge drive will be UUCB's 75th anniversary. A big musical event is planned for March 3.

Planned communications are similar to communication strategies in the past. The Board will need to discuss the importance of the pledge campaign with members and friends and will help with follow-up calls.

D. Music Directors Report

The music director's report is included in the Lead Minister's report in Attachment B.

V. New Business

A. Update Board Positions

Board members will review and update the current Board position descriptions.

B. General Assembly (GA) Delegates

A call for GA delegates was included in the February Perspectives and Friday update. One person applied. A small group met following services to discuss the importance of the GA meeting, despite its virtual format. The Board discussed how to encourage participation in the GA meeting and the potential for the Board to watch together.

The Church can still pay for delegates even if applications are received after the March 15 early registration deadline. The Board will re-visit the list of applicants in mid-March. Hans Kelson, Technology Coordinator, may organize GA activities such as watching together and dinner in order to better understand what GA is all about.

C. Policy Working Group Update

Reverend Grant and Mary Craig, Member-at-Large, provided an update on the Policy Working Group's progress. The policy follows the Hotchkiss Model, removed out-of-date policies. Steve Gilbert is contributing a great deal to the policy working group. The next meeting will be February 24. The following milestones were agreed upon.

March 10 – Draft of the Policies to the Board

March 21– Develop another draft based on Board questions

April 3 – Revised draft to the Board

April 17 – Board vote to approve

VI. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

VII. Housekeeping

Housekeeping was not discussed.

VIII. Parking Lot

NA

IX. Executive Session

The Board entered executive session at 8:19 pm.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:50 p.m.

Attachment A

Special Purposes Fund Committee Board Report

July 2023 through December 2023 (quarters 24Q1 and 24Q2)

Investment Funds								Notes
Name	Beginning Balance	Earnings	Distribution	Transfers	Deposits	Expenses	Ending Balance	
Operational Endowment	96,837.06	4,340.01	-1,996.75		15.00	-37.50	99,157.82	
Operational Available	132,495.27	6,219.88	1,996.75		15.00	-37.50	140,689.40	
Special Purpose Endowment	170,342.92	7,638.28	-3,422.53		15.00	-37.50	174,536.18	
Special Purpose Available	288,314.51	15,650.32	3,422.53		25,015.00	-23,037.50	309,364.86	
Totals	687,989.76	33,848.49			25,060.00	-23,150.00	723,748.25	

Accounts

Ending Balance	Name	Classification
39,675.45	Checking register (Cash)	Group One Assets
441,079.28	Vanguard Wellington Fund (Admiral Shares)	Group One Assets
40,537.31	Vanguard Brkrq (FFD): Parnasus (PARNX)	Group One Assets, FF Divested
25,344.24	Vanguard Brkrq (FFD): Cln Edge Green En (QCLN)	Group One Assets, FF Divested
389.05	Vanguard Brkrq (FFD): Money Market Fund	Group One Assets, FF Divested
0.00	Vanguard Brkrq (FFD): Cash	Group One Assets, FF Divested
89,200.64	Vanguard Inter-Term Inv.-Grade Bond Fund	Group Two Assets
87,522.28	Vanguard Short-Term Inv.-Grade Bond Fund	Group Two Assets

Proportions

Checking 5% Equities 48% Bonds 46%

Transactions

Date	Description	Amount
Transfers		
#N/A		
Income [Deposits]		
9/8/2023	Anne Haynes Bequest-gazebo & Memorial Plaque	25,000.00
11/2/2023	In Memory of Bill Swenson	25.00
11/2/2023	In Memory of Bill Swenson	35.00
	Income Total	25,060.00
Expenses		
From SPF to UUCB accidentally deposited to SPF ON 6/16/23 should have been deposited to TMemorial Srv Contributions (A. Scott Hutchison)		
11/2/2023		150.00
11/30/2023	From SPF to UUCB for duct heater installs paid out by UUCB Invoice J36393	21,500.00
12/14/2023	From SPF to Monika Herzig from the Swaney Composition Fund	1,500.00
	Expense Total	23,150.00

Comments

At Board request, SPFC is now managing investment and reporting of the Operational Endowment and Operational Available Fund, which receives the endowment distributions as well as savings. Board maintains control of Operational Available Fund expenditures.

Group One Assets are allocated among all Endowment and Available Investment Funds in proportion to their balances. Group Two Assets are allocated among Available Investment Funds in proportion to their balances.

Terminology has evolved for clarification and to match the quarterly report format most recently updated in Feb 2022, with look-back to 21Q3. See online document at tinyurl.com/spfc-report-guide for a detailed description.

In the future a donor's name will only be associated with those funds if the donation equals or exceeds \$40,000.

Committee

Approved by Andrew Appel (Chair), Bill Lonnerberg (Board Treasurer), Deb Hutton, Linda Pickle (Board appointed), and Doris Wittenburg.

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Report
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Attachment B

Date: February 21, 2024
 To: Board of Directors
 From: Rev. Connie Grant, Interim Lead Minister
 Subject: Monthly Report – February, 2024

Brief highlights and updates:

- 560 members were certified to the UUA on February 5. So far, 12 resignations resulted from the roll review email sent to non-pledgers, with additional membership defaults expected as a result of non-response.
- Current staff and staffing are working well. Amanda Waye, Stephanie Kimball, Hans Kelson, and Jo Bowman are all effective in their positions.
- Jeff Stone has expressed his intention to retire as of June 30. Amanda and I have begun planning reconfiguration of the position of Custodian. Challenge will be how to fund replacement.
- I plan to participate in a seminar for ministers expecting to retire within the next ten years, in person in Baltimore March 18-22.
- I'll be "elsewhere" during candidating week, April 21-28, participating in the Transitional Ministers' UUMA chapter meeting.

Report against Ends:

Seeking the Spirit

- An application has been made to the Center for Congregations for a Mental Health Initiative grant in the amount of up to \$40,000, with the goal of creating a Youth Resiliency curriculum to support youth mental health. This is a competitive process and up to 30 congregations will be selected to participate.
- Anniversary year activities include the following planned worship services:

Feb 25	History of Social Justice
Mar 24	Story of the Tree of Life quilt
May 26	History of the choir and music program
- Worship service attendance is trending upward, around 160 in the sanctuary and 30 online.

Building Community

- The Welcoming Team is exploring how to train greeters, leaders, and congregation members in multicultural welcome and reducing unconscious bias. Director of Lifespan Religious Education and Rainbow Rights TF are being invited to collaborate.

Changing the World

- The Habitat for Humanity Task Force is planning a parents' build on March 2, with childcare offered at the church
- The Racial Justice Task Force held a reorganizational meeting, with results as follows:
 - 1) Decided to meet every other month. The next hybrid meeting will be Sunday, March 10th at 2pm.
 - 2) Identified a guided Bloomington African American Walking Tour and matinee viewing of the film Origin as two events we are interested in. Volunteers identified to organize these events.
 - 3) Approved support the 5-50 Club fundraising effort for Resilience Productions March performance and agreed to provide/serve refreshments at the 3 shows. Volunteers needed.
 - 4) Approved \$1500 in donations to various groups/projects
 - \$500.00 donation to IU First Nations Educational and Cultural Center (land acknowledgement/football parking on this land)
 - \$200.00 donation to West Baden (Colored) Church in support and gratitude for the film at no cost.
 - \$100.00 donation to Elizabeth Mitchell, for her participation in the discussion after the movie when she shared the historical perspective, progress of the church restoration and present-day activities.
 - \$300.00 to help fund a marker on the Monroe County African American Cultural Project being developed by Elizabeth Mitchell.
 - 5) Strongly supported the idea of providing 'banned books' to children and educators. Volunteer agreed to get more information / suggest options for next steps.
 - 6) Identified a number of destinations that we might like to visit, including the West Baden First Baptist (colored) Church.
- Plans are underway to sell parking during the solar eclipse on April 8 to benefit the Solar Maintenance Fund. Organized by Green Sanctuary TF and Habitat TF with staff support.

Music Director's Report

Dr. Susan Swaney

02-13-2024

The lowlight and highlight of the last month were losing Julie Lawson and premiering the piece we commissioned for her husband.

Guy Loftman is spearheading a project to get all our commissions organized, so they can be shared with other congregations and the wider public.

I want to see if Pam Blevins- Hinkle can come lead a weekend circle-singing workshop sometime in May or June. Ideally, she would also participate in the Sunday service.

The Meeting Room piano has been tuned, and we are planning for the others to be worked on over the next few months.

I am very happy with how the new congregational prelude is working. So far, so good.