Unitarian Universalist Congregation Board Meeting Minutes June 9, 2016

On May 27, via email, Bob moved to approve the wording of the contract with Rev. Don Rollins, Interim Minister. The motion carried unanimously.

Present: Board members Tim Pickering, Bob Stimson, Carol Kern, Linda Powers, Molly Lazar, Bonnie Wall-Lievsay; ex officio members Dara Olandt, Karen Hager, Lisa Evanylo; incoming Board members Jennifer Mercier, Susan Wamsley; UUC members George Lally, Jim Flowers, Frank DuPont

The Board enjoyed a potluck prior to the meeting. Dara lit the chalice, and all checked in. Bonnie served as Process Observer (PO).

I. Member's forum

A. **George Lally** presented and discussed the Grounds Committee initiative, approved by the Facilities Council and Memorial Committee, for a pet memorial on our upper grounds and dispersal of pet ashes on our grounds. For a fee (about \$35), a commemorative plate, 1"x4" with up to 3 lines of text, will be mounted on the memorial post. Cremains may be dispersed along the Meditation Path, Peacock Meadow, or other grassy or wooded area of our grounds EXCEPT for the Memorial Garden which is limited to human cremains. No uncremated animal remains may be interred on UUC grounds, and no individual markers are permitted.

II. Agenda – Tim moved to accept the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

III. **Consent Agenda** – Carol moved to accept the minutes from May. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. **Recommendation from CoM on new projects or activities** – attached is the proposed policy and form. Karen stated that LFD has had such a policy and form in place since 2014 for any class, group or activity that someone wants to initiate. She suggested that the CoM take a look at it. It was suggested that anyone wishing to start an activity speak with the minister or DLFD. Molly will tweak the policy and bring back to the next Board meeting.

V. **Board development** –Jim Flowers and Frank DuPont presented the ad hoc committee's suggested revisions to the P&P Manual regarding UUC's organizational structure (see page 2) and a revised "How our congregation works" document (attached). The purpose of the proposed changes is to relieve the Board from dealing with the many small, detailed decisions thus enabling them to deal with policy affecting large, overarching issues. We would move from our current 8 councils to just 1 that meets 3-4 times/year. The Past-president convenes and chairs council meetings and attends quarterly Board meetings, more if desired. The new structure would be implemented in August and may allow the Board to meet less frequently. It was suggested that committee chairs on the council be invited to the Board fall retreat, and all can work together on the annual congregational calendar.

The ad hoc committee will continue to edit the documents but eventually want to pass it off. These are living documents that will be constantly changing. Bonnie moved to approve the suggested revisions to the P&P Manual. The motion carried unanimously.

Karen commented that LFD has no committees but has task teams instead. She requested to be able to appoint people to sit on the council with the right to vote.

Suggested revisions to the Policy and Procedures Manual:

Introduction to Organizational Structure

Part II of the Executive Board's Policy and Procedures Manual addresses the organizational structure of the Congregation. This includes the descriptions of officers and the listing of the responsibilities of all existing committees and activity leaders. Support personnel are included since they function in conjunction with the Board and committees. Personnel policies are addressed in Part III of the manual. Administration of the Congregation is carried out by an elected Executive Board (the Board), an elected Board of Trustees (Trustees), and various committees. ADD: The governance structure and components of the UUC are described in greater detail in the document HOW OUR CONGREGATION WORKS.

Section I. Executive Board

ADD: The Executive Board is responsible to the Congregation for discerning the current state and health of the organization and determining how closely the Congregation is conducting itself in the pursuit of making real the attainment of its Mission. The Board itself is responsible to create and affirm those overarching and 'Big Picture' policies that enable the staff and volunteers who serve the UUC to contribute their talents and efforts in the achievement of its Mission. The Board delegates to the organizational components (Committees and Teams) the authority for constructing internal operating policies and procedures within the bounds of legal and ethical strictures.

Membership and general responsibilities of the Board are given in the Bylaws (Article VI-E). The Board meets monthly to discuss and make decisions regarding matters of Congregation management, operations and policy.

- A. Duties and Responsibilities of All Board Members UNCHANGED
- B. President UNCHANGED
- C. President-Elect UNCHANGED

D. Past-President ADD: Serves the last of the three-year term of offices described above. In working with the President this individual is to provide support, direction, and facilitation with the new Board. Responsibilities include serving as a member of the Board, attending agenda planning meetings, attending orientation for new Board members, and attending monthly Board meetings. In addition this person should:

1. Assist the President <u>by</u> soliciting Board members' involvement to complete tasks.

2. Assist in planning Board retreats and trainings.

3. Keep informed about Bylaws and Policy and Procedures manual. Refer to them at Board meetings as needed.

4. Review timelines from previous years and help to anticipate upcoming issues.

5. Act as a resource to President. Be available on an "as needed" basis to answer President's questions, give counsel, etc.

- 6. Convene and chair Council meetings.
- E. Treasurer UNCHANGED

Section II: Board of Trustees UNCHANGED

Section III: Committees of the Board

A. Ways and Means

Committees of the Board report directly to the Executive Board. ADD: The Board approves the Chairs of Committees of the Board, not the members. The Committees of the Board are the following:

1. Finance Committee: The Finance Committee shall consist of a Chair, and three to five additional members of the congregation. The Congregation treasurer serves as an ex- officio member of this committee. The Finance Committee is to: • Prepare a tentative budget with Treasurer for approval by Board and congregation. • Review on a regular basis reports of financial activities and budget and make recommendations to the Board for changes and exceptions as needed. • Perform an annual informal audit of the Congregation's financial records and provide a written report to both the Trustees and the Board. • Review and recommend to the Board as needed, with regard to issues that involve the financial situation of the Congregation. • Coordinate additional fund raising activities on an ad hoc basis. unless it is determined by the Ways And Means committee that a separate committee should be constituted to handle such activities. • Develop for Board approval and maintain records of procedures for all financial matters of the Congregation.

2. Stewardship *Campaign* Committee: This committee is responsible for conducting the annual pledge campaign. The Stewardship Chair is appointed by the Board and is responsible for coordinating with the Minister, President, Treasurer and Finance Committee to raise funds for the annual operating budget of the UUC.

The Stewardship Committee is a standing committee; its members, 6 to 10 in number including the Chair, will be responsible for the following activities:

- Recruit and train canvassers; Determine the design and strategies; Keep the Board informed regarding those strategies and recommend the timelines; Recruit and train three or four at-large stewards who will make canvass calls on new members who have not made a pledge within eight weeks after they sign the Membership book; Provide a written annual report to the Board and Congregation with an analysis of the strategies and results of the year's activities with recommendations for future plans.
- The Committee may engage other members or friends of the Congregation as consultants for specific tasks or projects.

3. Leadership Development: The Leadership Development committee has the responsibility of seeking, encouraging, developing and rewarding leadership in the Congregation. Some specific tasks delegated to this committee are • The Leadership Development Committee, in consultation with the Executive Board, shall prepare a list of at least one nominee per office for the elective offices of the congregation to be filled, and shall recruit persons to serve as leaders and coordinators. This Nominating Committee is chaired by the President-Elect. (Board 1/9/09) • Assist the Past-President in soliciting nominations for and making decisions about the annual volunteer awards. (Board, 5/12/11) • Establish and maintain a Congregational database detailing individual's gifts, interests, and potential leadership.

4. Strategic Planning: NOTE: No specific charge in place yet.

5. G. Policy Committee The policy committee is normally chaired by the past-president who will work with the Administrator to make sure the Policy Manual is up to date and proceduresare current. The pastpresident may delegate this responsibility to another willing, knowledgeable, and experienced UUC member.

Add: 5. Governance Oversight Committee: This Committee is charged with assisting the Executive Board in maintaining and enhancing the structure of the UUC. It will have four to five members in addition to the Chair. It recommends to the Board those Policies that affect

the whole Congregation regarding structure and governance, and therefore includes review of the Bylaws.

Ad Hoc Committees and Activity Tasks Leaders From time to time the Board or a Council may appoint ad hoc committees and task leaders to research, perform or oversee special projects. These groups will be established, directed and dissolved by the Board or Council. Ideally committees are comprised of two or more people who meet on a regular basis to plan activities that address broad areas of congregational need. Task groups focus on addressing a finite task, recruit people to carry out that task and meet occasionally or never. Tasks may be carried out by one person or a group.

Responsibilities Common to All Committees and Tasks • Provide relevant information for the Sunday bulletin and the newsletter. • Prepare an annual written report to the Board prior to the end of the Fiscal Year. • Prepare and submit to the Finance Committee an annual budget and then administer the approved budget. ADD: <u>Committee Chairs are expected to attend all</u> three Council meetings.

ADD: The following are teams under the purview of the Treasurer.

Auction Team: The Auction activities person is responsible for coordination of all functions for an annual auction. The leader may have assistants in carrying out the following task/activities: • Plan and conduct the auction event, including planning for refreshments and entertainment. • Engage an auctioneer. • Obtain donations of goods and services for the auction. • Collect all amounts due from successful bidders. • Maintain an accounting system for donations and final bids on auctioned items. • Coordinate the disposition of all goods and services donated for the auction. • Provide a written report to the Board and Finance Committee within one month after the auction.

4. Grocery Gift Cards Team: The Grocery Gift Card (Scrip) Program's purpose is to raise funds by the sale of scrip or debit cards that can be used as cash at local supermarkets. The individual may have assistants in carrying out the following tasks: • Recruit members to set a table to sell grocery gift cards each Sunday. 10 • Obtain grocery gift cards from area supermarket stores. • Coordinate and train volunteers to sell grocery gift cards on Sunday mornings. • Deposit proceeds into grocery gift cards and provide this information to the bookkeeper on a regular basis. • Periodically inform the Congregation of the procedures and purpose of the program. • Periodically (at least annually) transfer proceeds to the main Congregation account, retaining sufficient funds for purchasing additional grocery gift cards. • Review account statements with Finance Committee quarterly.

ADD: The following reports to the Minister of the Congregation: (Reworded)

Denominational Affairs Team: This person or team serves as the Congregation's liaison to the Regional and National UUA organizations. It publicizes denominational events and promotes them to the Congregation. Responsibilities include: • Advertising for General Assembly (GA). •Recommend to the Board who should be delegates and alternates. • Meet with GA delegates and the Minister prior to GA to parse out who will attend which workshops for the best benefit to the UUC. • Advertise other conferences, including Blue Ridge Cluster events and workshops, and encourage attendance. • Inform the Congregation on all relevant news and requests from UUA headquarters and the Regional office.

VI. Staff Reports – see written reports

A. **Minister's Report** – Dara will provide a "Gratitude cake" for the BBQ on Sunday. The summer service schedule is going well, and Dara is working with the WSC to find speakers for all Sundays until Rev. Don begins preaching in August. Now that our Mission/Covenant statements have been approved, Dara discussed the need for the development of "end statements" (see email from Molly with example from Charlottesville UU Congregation) which will guide the Board in making decisions in the future. SP and the Board will need to work together on this. SP is developing a series of questions for committees to be used to help develop these end statements. Rev. Don will provide guidance. SP ordered the book, *Beyond Fundraising*, for all committee members. Dara suggested the Board read it also.

B. **Administrator's report** – Lisa discussed the need for a new UUC logo based on our new Mission/Covenant statements. The logo will be used to guide the look of the new website to be developed this fall. It can retain the look of our current logo or be totally new. Keep in mind that there are members attached to our current river scene. Lisa will contact Anne Hall about her possible help with this. It is hoped that several logos can be designed with one picked via a congregational vote.

There was a suggestion to change our name to include our location as UUC is too vague. An ad hoc committee should be formed to investigate what needs to be done to change the name.

C. **DLFD report** – Karen stated that only 1 teacher (middle school class) is needed for fall. Karen will attend the LREDA gathering in Columbus the day before GA. The topic is "RE as a growth strategy for a church".

VII. **Treasurer's report** – written report attached. Member loans have decreased by \$10,000 with one loan decreasing from \$13,000 to \$8,000 (due to \$5,000 donation), and another loan of \$5,000 was forgiven. There is currently a surplus of \$10,260 but \$3000 is still owed to our facilities manager (request for invoice has been emailed). Linda is hoping there will be a surplus to apply to the ministerial search. There are 2 new members on the Finance Committee with another contemplating joining. It was suggested that members of the FC read *Beyond Fundraising* also as it discusses legacy giving, endowments, etc.

VIII. Action Items

A. **\$1800 donation to Search Committee** – Bonnie moved to accept the donation of \$1800. The motion carried unanimously.

B. July meeting – Carol will make a decision on whether to hold a July meeting or not.

C. **Rev. Don Rollins request** – Rev. Don provided more detail via email (forwarded by Molly) regarding his part-time ministry with a UU congregation in Athens, OH. Note that this work would be done during his weekends off from UUC and on his weekly days off. Further, if pastoral needs arise on his scheduled Sunday off, he would make arrangements to stay here. Following discussion, the Board approved of Rev. Don's working with the UU congregation in OH. Molly will let him know of the Board's decision.

IX. Council Reports

A. **Facilities Council** – carpets will be cleaned shortly. The sound system was buzzing during last Sunday's service. Molly is working to address the problem, and emails were sent to the appropriate people.

- B. Governance Council no report
- C. Finance & Administration Council no report
- D. LFD Council no report

E. **Membership Council** – Worship and Connections will work together to hold an Activity Fair in the fall (scheduled for September 18).

- F. Pastoral Services Council no report
- G. Social Action Council no report
- H. Worship Opportunities Council no report

X. New Business

A. **Board Retreat** – Carol will send a doodle poll to find a date. Molly will look into holding it at SLV. Carol requested suggestions for what people want from the retreat.

Suggestions included: 1) integrate Rev. Don and new Board members, 2) discuss with Rev. Don about how the year will unfold and what he hopes to accomplish, 3) invite Polly Stimson of SP to discuss how we can work together, 4) review the past year for what worked, what could be improved upon, and 5) review of Sturgis' rules. Let Carol know of other ideas.

XI. Info items

A. **Rev. Don** will be in the pulpit starting August 7.

B. **Ministerial Transition Team** – members are Mark Benson (chair), Patrick Feucht, and George Lally. Two others are needed. Carol will be the Board liaison to the team.

XII. **Process Observer** – Bonnie stated that much decision-making was done, and much information was processed. She suggested that it would be useful to identify action(s) required for all agenda items.

XIII. Next meeting – TBD.

Tim provided the closing reading.

The Board went in to executive session.

ACTION ITEMS:

Molly - tweak the CoM policy for new projects/activities and bring back to next Board meeting, contact Rev. Don regarding Board's decision on part-time work with UU congregation in OH **Carol** – let all know if meeting in July or not, send doodle poll for Board retreat **All** – send Carol suggestions for Board retreat work

AGENDA ITEMS:

Policy for new projects/activities Ad hoc committee to research UUC name change Carried over from previous months: Should we allow restricted gifts? (much info on UUA website) Where should our share of ½ plate collection go?

Lisa Evanylo, Administrator

UUC BOARD MEETING AGENDA Thursday, June 9, 2016 at 6 in the library. Potluck first hour.	
7-7:05 Chalice Lighting & Reading – Rev Dara Members Forum	5 Minutes
7:05- 7:20 Check-in Process Observer- Bonnie	15 Minutes
7 :20-7 :25 Review and Accept Agenda for current mtg. Approve May Board minutes.	5 Minutes
7:25-7:40 Recommendations from CoM re new projects	15 Minutes
7:40- 8:10 Board Development— ad hoc Committee	30 Minutes
8:10-8:20 Break and Refreshments	10 Minutes
8:20- 8:30 Minister and Staff Reports Administrator's Reports DLFD's Reports	10 Minutes
8:30-8:35 Treasurer's Report	5 Minutes
8:35-8:40 Action Items \$1800 Search Committee donation	5 Minutes
8:40-8:50 Council Reports Facilities Council Governance Council Finance & Administration Council Lifespan Faith Development Council Membership Council Pastoral Service Council Social Action Council Worship Opportunities Council	10 Minutes
8:50-9:00 Brainstorming—Board retreat in August	10 Minutes
9:00-9:05 Information Items Timeline, special events	5 Minutes
9:05-9:10 Select refreshments, process observer, and closing words voluntee Process Observer Report- Linda Extinguish Chalice- Tim	5 Minutes rs for July

Next meeting: July 14

June Report to the Board - Rev. Dara Olandt

Yearlong congregational theme: "Our Year of Living Bravely"

Dear Board, in lieu of a customary Board Report for this month, I write to you this "State of the Ministry Memo" reflecting on a few salient items.

"State of the Ministry" - June, 2016

First, it has been a joy to minister with you over the year, and it has been an honor to serve the UUC over the past three years. What a vibrant congregation. There are so many wonderful and thriving ministries which are occurring.

Administratively, as I prepare to leave UUC, I am working closely with the committees and programs of the congregation, ensuring necessary files for projects are either in the hands of lay-leaders, or in the Minister's office ready for the next minister who will serve UUC.

UUC LPCM files, End of Life Plans/Memorial files, Personnel information, files related to the Blacksburg Ministerial Association and Interfaith Council at Virginia Tech are just a few examples of the kinds of files that I will be sure are stored for the incoming minister in the minister's office, along with any explanatory notes from me to your next minister(s).

I will also email introduce Rev. Don to Rev. Istvan (of UUC's Partner Church in Transylvania) and also to the Blue Ridge Cluster listserv of UU Religious Professionals so that your next minister(s) can easily maintain connection to both.

This month, overall, I will continue to support Committees and Programs for the transition next year, to say good bye, and attend to administrative details that will ease the transition for the incoming minister in particular. I will finalize packing up my office by June 30th.

WORSHIP

<u>June:</u>

Here are a few key items regarding worship this month. June's worship theme is "**Yes.**" Key worship dates: **Sunday, June 12th will be a post-service Picnic and BBQ Celebrating Our Shared Ministry Together!** I look forward to seeing many of you there. **Sunday, June 19th** — will be my last day in the pulpit, we will also hold an official "send off" in the service for those going to GA.

July:

I am presently working with David Lally (Chair of Worship Services Committee) and Ellen Plummer (Worship Associates Coordinator) to ensure a line up of quality worship experiences for July. The roster of services is almost complete, and includes lay-led services as well as services led by guest UU ministers.

Presently, I am also working on expanding the list of guest accompanists who can fill in while Jared is on vacation. I hope to soon have confirmed all of the guest musicians for July. The Worship Services Committee and WAs will be well-versed in these plans and where requisite hard and electronic files can be found.

Dear Board, looking ahead, here are 3 priority items I wanted to bring to your attention so that these can continue on your radar and may be of use to you as you look to the fall.

- **1.** Now that the new Mission and Covenant has been approved, here is what I see for the **next steps moving in the forward-looking process for UUC's Board be-coming "policy-based":** Strategic Planning and Board will need to work together to develop "big picture" statements (sometimes called "ends") which guide the congregation in living into its mission. The idea is that the Board will be making choices with "mission-alignment" in mind, that is, matching decisions to the "ends" which relate to the mission. Development of the "ends" may come from the grassroots of the congregation's committees, synthesized by the SP and Board. Strategic Planning is already planning for ways to do this sort of work, and how to be of help to next year's Board.
- **2.** It is **time to re-do the UUC website.** In fact, this would have been an priority last year, however it was decided to wait until the new Mission/Covenant process unfolded, so that the Mission/Covenant could inform the "look", "feel" and content of the new website. Lisa Evanylo and Karen Hager, among others, will be instrumental in this effort, and additional people may be found for specific tasks or for the Communications Committee. I do recommend Connections and Stewardship folks share ideas about how to make a new website that is welcoming and also easy for folks to locate where, when and how to give generously to the congregation. Note: While the present website is a great improvement over prior versions, it is certainly known by many that UUC is ready for a next, new iteration of a website. As the "virtual doorstep" of the congregation, it is good to keep it looking fresh, relevant and also have it be as useful as possible to present members and friends (i.e. translate well also on cell phones, etc.)
- **3.** Finally, I want to suggest that **UUC's International Partnership relationship** be kept on the radar of the Board, Worship Services Committee and RE, so that ways to learn more about UUC's special partners continue to unfold. Note: I will be working with the International Partnership Church Committee this June to help them decide where to keep the plentiful materials provided by the International Partnership Church Council which can continue to help foster creative connection between the two congregations over time.

With Deep Care and Abiding Gratitude,

Rev. Dara

Committee Meetings: I will be attending an auction committee meeting on June 19.

Policy Manual Revision: I have done no work on updating the Policy Manual due to lack of hours to do so. Also, now that the congregational structure is being revised once again, it is probably best to wait until the new structure is in place as that affects how the manual will be laid out. Once the new structure is in place, I am suggesting that an ad hoc committee be charged with the update as I do not foresee having the time to do this major task.

To be developed - new UUC Logo and Website: Now that the new Mission/Covenant statement has been approved, a new UUC logo should be developed that reflects this mission. It can be very similar to our current mountain scene logo or entirely different. The Board should decide how to proceed with this. Once that is done, the new UUC website can incorporate that logo. One of our members, Kelly Eagan, has offered to help with the website, although at this point, I don't know to what extent this will be. She is very knowledgeable of WordPress. So at this point, it's unknown if staff can create the new website or if professional help will be required.

Pledge reminders: To be sent via email early next week to all who pledged.

Retiring Board Members should return their Board notebooks by the end of the month. Minutes, reports, etc. can be removed - or I will clean them out.

Time away: I will be away June 21-26 at General Assembly.

Cycling Group Staying the Night at UUC: A group of young cyclists who are biking across the U.S. to raise money for cancer will be spending the night at UUC on June 11. Patrick Feucht will let them in and show them around. This is the 3rd year that UUC is providing sleeping space for this group.

Attendance/Members: See online Google Doc. Our membership number remains the same (206) even though several signed the membership book recently as several members were removed from the list due to not pledging for a second year in a row and no longer being active. If any of them return to UUC, they will be added back to the list.

DLFD Report to the Board – June 2016

Submitted by Karen Hager, Director of Lifespan Faith Development

Registration

- Current CYRE: 130 (unique children/youth)
- Children & Youth UUC "slots": 180

This month:

- Summer RE begins June 12. Our theme for the K-5 class is "Passport to Adventure". Kids will be "traveling" to a different country each week, with tour guides who have particular knowledge of each country. Kids will be given a passport which will be stamped for each country visited. At the end of the summer, the passport is taken home as a souvenir. Airline "tickets" and an itinerary were mailed this week to all K-5 kids to generate some excitement.
- PreK children have their own Summer RE class again this year, Sunday Fundays. The emphasis for this class is on fun, with play time and a story. We are urging parents with children who will be transitioning this fall from the nursery to preschool to begin the transition early by attending the PreK class this summer. We've found that this allows for the easiest transitions, as class sizes are very small and the class is essentially a play date.
- Recruitment continues for fall. Only one more RE teacher is needed. I am moving my attention to recruiting for the Coming of Age 8th grade class.
- Online registration for fall will be available by mid-June for all classes and youth groups.
- I met with high school youth attendees, sponsors and parents about General Assembly and Youth Caucus at the end of May. All expectations were reviewed and agreed upon. All forms were signed and sent in to the UUA. We are all set to attend!
- I also set up a texting listserv for use by Posse '16 at GA and will be setting up a Facebook group to allow photos to be shared.
- I will be attending General Assembly and the LREDA Professional Day prior to GA.
- I will be taking a week's vacation July 23-31.
- Upon detailed examination of the proposed curriculum for the 2016-17 PreK class, *We Are Many, We Are One,* and after speaking to PreK teachers about the curriculum, I have determined that the curriculum is no longer suitable for our use. It contains outdated books, outdated craft projects, and some questionable elements concerning inclusion. There is very little PreK curriculum currently available; we are using the one (excellent) Tapestry of Faith curriculum for this age, but need a second curriculum for our second year of instruction. I have found nothing usable for an entire year. Therefore, I've decided to go ahead and write my own curriculum for this class. As I have done for previous authorships, I will write this curriculum on my own time and retain the copyright. This serves as notification to the Board of this plan.

LFD Council – the following is submitted in lieu of an additional report.

- The following topics were discussed at the meeting in May:
 - Recap of 2015-16 LFD program
 - o 2016-17 LFD program
 - Recruitment update
 - o 2016-17 budget
 - Potential change in Council structure, per May's Board meeting
- LFDC also met with Board members, Tim Pickering and Bonnie Lievsay, to discuss the proposed addition of a sabbatical to the DLFD contract. Karen was not present for this discussion.
- LFDC would like to formally thank the Board for their support in partial funding of the YRUU trip through the 2016-17 budget. We believe that this financial support will allow us to create a much stronger overall YRUU program in the coming year.
- No board action is needed.