

Board Meeting Minutes

Our mission is to “Kindle the light within and inspire courage to nurture the web of life and to create a just and compassionate world.”

Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2022
Time: 7 pm - 9 pm
Location: Zoom
Main Goal: To inspire families; to make progress on Affordable Housing.

Attending: Brent Nicolle, Phil Nagy, Carl Sonnen, Rev. Eric Meter, Lisa Sharp, Mary Ella Keblusek, David Chernushenko, Amy Berube, Caycee Price, Jen Brennan, Neo Yaxley (item 3), Mike Fletcher and Ron Doyle (item 3-4), Terry Kimmel (items 3-5)

1. Consent Agenda

Motion to:

- *Accept Agenda*
- *Approve BOD Minutes for May 18, 2022*

Moved by: Amy Seconded by: David

2. Minister’s Report [Rev Eric]

-*Appendix A*

3. Report on Children’s RE [Neo Yaxley]

- There will be station activities taking place during the summer with a focus on the garden.
- Kindergarten OWL is projected to be done in the fall. That may need to change as the release of the program is being pushed back.
- Discussions about re-integration into children in the sanctuary.

4. Heating pump purchase proposal, tabled for an email vote.

5. Campus Development Activity

Guest: Terry Kimmel, Campus Planning Committee chair

a. Motion to approve temporary access deviation for Cleary Avenue through our upper parking lot

- due to LRT construction through Cleary intersection
- 20 to 24 month duration, starting August 2022
- financial compensation to follow, based on city’s assessment (or our own)
- affects traffic to renters, RPCC, UH, The Continental.
- See *Appendix B* for sketched map

Moved by: Carl Seconded by: Mary Ella, Carried

b. Motion to retain Robin MacKay (and Rita Asangarani) as Legal Counsel for Affordable Housing Letter-of-Intent (LOI). A \$3000 retainer will be allocated for this purpose.

Moved by: Lisa Seconded by: Carl Carried

Discussion: These lawyers are specialists in affordable housing in religious organizations. -They would work cooperatively.

c. Motion to approve Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS) as our Affordable Housing partner

Moved by: David Seconded by: Amy, Carried

6. Information Updates

- a. Proposal on Assessing Progress on Strategic Plan (draft)
[from Eva Berringer, COSM]

To be completed in the coming months, perhaps to be presented at the next meeting.

- b. COVID Task Force

1. Singing in the pews now allowed , all must keep their mask on.
2. On-campus meetings/classes can be conducted "mask optional", so long as everyone attending agrees. This would exclude large events and Zoom HH in the Lounge, which was intended as an extension of Sunday service.
3. Capacity limits remain at 75%

120 for Fellowship Hall, 225 for Worship Hall. (No rentals are exceeding this.)

- c. Mary Ella Keblusek to join Unitarian House board as a First U liaison

7. Closing Next meeting, August 17th 2022.

Appendix A

Minister's Report to the Board of Directors of the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa

June 2022

I'd like to begin this report with updates from Michelle Jackson and Jen Brennan. From Finance Manager Michelle Jackson:

I was asked by the BoD to source the current acceptance by CRA of registered Charities using mixed or various media as well as hybrid (zoom and/or in person) during the AGM and FCM. Our current bylaws do not specifically state we allow this. However, when we change the bylaws to fit under the new ONCA regulations we can update this bylaw to reflect and specifically state we allow it. I will include Guy in this email for him to address, I believe he is still the lead on this.

That being said we can, due to Covid, use mixed/various media, as well as hybrid (zoom and in person) as needed. With the understanding that we (like all registered Charities) will be updating our bylaws due to ONCA. I have clarified that we do not have to have the bylaws changed before we proceed to hybrid, but it does have to be changed during our process of changing to the ONCA.

ONCA = Ontario's Not for Profit Corporations Act.

Please accept my apologies on getting this information to the BoD a little later than expected.

And from Operations Manager Jen Brennan:

June one-time rentals at First totaled approximately \$11,000, which is about half of the previous yearly rental revenue for non-covid years, and \$1000 shy of the 2022 budget! This is good news after two very lean years for rental income. Budgeted amounts for other types of rentals and Rites of Passage will likely meet or exceed their budgeted amounts as well!

Much of my own time these last few weeks has focused on wrapping up my first program year with you. Ensuring the summer worship program is in good hands (with the support of Bob Armstrong and our Worship Associates), staff evaluations are scheduled, and the like. I really don't understand how the year has passed so quickly. While it took a bit to schedule it, I recently had a zoom conversation with Eva Berringer and Guy Belleperche on the history of the congregation's move to Policy-Based Governance. Having watched from a distance as another congregation I've worked with adopted a similar governance model only to backslide into former, less effective practices, I don't want to see something similar happen at 1stU. To give a bit more

background on that other congregation, they did not codify it (as 1stU has in its By-Laws) or continue educating new generations of staff and lay leaders on the new model.

When I found two copies of Governance and Ministry, a book by Dan Hotchkiss (a UU minister I have great respect for) in our church library, I noticed they were both the first

edition of Hotchkiss' book. His second edition is much improved. So, I've ordered a solid handful of the updated book. There should be one for each of you, as well as

copies for Jen and Michelle, and two others to replace the earlier copies that had been in the church library.

The two Board members were part of the Mapmaking class already have their copies.

The rest of you will find your copies in your work room mailboxes.

Also, I'm happy to give a shout out to Lisa Boulay, as the Mapmaking class she and I have been leading has just concluded. What a wonderful group we had with us these last several weeks. With only one relative newcomer to the congregation (in addition to myself), we still ended up with a wonderful mix of personalities and theological interests.

And I want to let you know that I recently had a conversation with someone interested in membership, and have another such talk scheduled for this Sunday after worship.

Onward!

Let me close by repeating what I said in closing my report to you last month, that from June 20 – 26 I'll be taking part in the Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly and UU Ministers Association's Ministry Days in Portland, Oregon. I'll be driving to Toronto on Sunday afternoon before flying out early Monday morning.

While in Portland, I'll be available though via text and phone. And while my vacation will be during July, I will be at church for part of the Religious Exploration comprehensive sexuality education camps early that month.

My best to you all,

Rev. Eric Meter

Appendix B:

A. Cleary Detour Sketch

