

Board Meeting minutes

Date: Wednesday, October 19, 2022
Time: 7 pm - 9 pm
Attending: Brent Nicolle, Mary Ella Keblusek, Phil Nagy, Amy Berube, David Chernushenko, Carl Sonnen, Caycee Price, Lisa Sharp, Rev Eric, Jen, Michelle, Guy Belleperche (Item 1-3)

1. Call to Order
2. Consent Agenda 2.1 Motion to: - <i>Accept Agenda</i> - <i>Approve BOD Minutes for September 21, 2022</i> - <i>Accept the recommendations of the COVID Task Force (see appendix 2)</i> Moved by: Amy Seconded by: Phil , Carried
3. Governance re Charitable Purposes Guy Belleperche gave a brief update on the road so far. 3.1 Motion on Submitting Charitable Purposes to CRA <i>Move that the Board approve the submission of the updated Charitable Purposes to the CRA for their feedback. No legal consultations recommended at this time.</i> Moved by: Brent, Seconded by: Phil, carried
4. Minister's Report [Rev. Eric] see appendix 1
5. President's Report [Brent] <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Brent was pleased that a number of activities are achieving such fabulous success; to name a few: FirstU participation at the Sept 23rd Climate Strike, Leadership Council meeting on Giving Up Racism, Messy Church, Youth Group Games Night, the Ajashki Closing celebration and the Sharing of Soup at thanksgiving. Thank you for your part in organizing these, or bearing witness to them.- The Cleary Detour agreement was signed by me on Monday October 3rd. The terms are satisfactory. It appears the City will make Cleary a temporary public road, such that they are responsible for winter maintenance.
6. Treasurer's Report [Phil] -Phil updated the board on the Q3 numbers, ending on September 30th 2022.
7. Vice-president's Report [Mary Ella] Update from Unitarian House activities
8. Membership Process Task Force A Membership Process Task Force is proposed to (re)consider our categories of membership, the processes of joining and remaining as a member, and the implications for our founding documents.

Jane Lindsay is proposing: herself, Guy Belleperche, Michelle Jackson, Rev Eric, welcoming and membership team, board representation.
action : Phil has agreed to serve on this committee as the board representation.

9. Congregant Engagement items for discussion

9.1 Nominating Committee

On behalf of the Congregation, the Board seeks two additions to the Nominating Committee to replace Sharmila Khare and Joe Connor. It would be nice to find someone connected to RE. REQUIRED by November 10th.

9.2 Arts Night Coordinator

The board was approached about potentially helping to revive arts night. Some leads were pursued, but if anyone is interested in spearheading this, please connect with us.

9.3 Young Adults Games/Event Night

We need to offer something social for Young Adults and Millennials. A games night or similar event would likely be well-received, likely with minimal long-term coordination.
action: Caycee offered to organize the first one.

9.4 Congregant Engagement “Tiger Team”

A list of current outstanding volunteer positions and the adoption of a volunteer database to help fill vacancies to create more fulfilling and robust volunteer experiences for our members.

10. Upcoming Event Logistics

10.1 Campus Development Town Hall

This Town Hall is led by the Board, with input from Campus Planning Committee, the Campus Task Force, the Peterborough Road Trip crew, and Rodney from Theia.

10.2 Fall Congregational Meeting

Remember that we need to organize (or delegate) meeting materials, scrutineering, in-person logistics, and remote Zoom logistics (for Q&A not for voting).

10.3 Fall Fair requests

Carol Card has some particular requests from board members during Fall Fair. Such as being available to sit at an information table during the fair in order to give information to people attending the fair who do not currently attend our congregation.

Closing – parting is such sweet sorrow

Appendix 1

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

October 2022

We've always been this busy, right?

Looking back:

On October 12th, more than 50 Carleton University architecture students took a trip out to our church to study our worship center. I don't know how often this sort of thing has happened before, but I hope we can host more such opportunities in the future.

Starting last month, Messy Church returned to our religious exploration classrooms, as it will be the first Sunday each month for the foreseeable future. At our fall annual meeting next month, Neo will highlight what is going on in RE.

While I'm still working out next steps for our spiritual care and caring teams, now that Rev Ellen has stepped back due to health concerns, she lit up when I asked if she'd like a retirement party. This will be on her time frame, tbd.

I've reached out to Deirdre Kellerman about what support she's willing to provide over Christmas (and beyond?) while Jenn Berntson is on maternity leave. From talking with Jenn, my understanding is that Deirdre will likely not be able to fill in each Sunday.

Anne Nagy has agreed to serve on the group (with Michelle, Jenn and myself) to find an interim replacement for Jenn (in addition to Deirdre).

You will have noticed that in the last several weeks we've had indigenous guest speakers from both Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services as well as Ajashki. This is both a reflection the timing of Thanksgiving and Canada's National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and an intentional effort to help center indigenous voices.

Also, Jen Brennan's vacation illuminated like never before the increased expectations on how quickly we respond to rental requests and plans for other building use. She, Lori, Michelle and I have all be talking since Jen's return (welcome back, once again!)

Looking forward:

At next week's installation ceremony, we'll have a conversational reception following the service. This means no food or drink. We have to be consistent across all church activities. Also, there will be a children's story during the ceremony before the young ones go downstairs for child care. In order to promote participation by families of all ages, we won't have our regular religious exploration that morning.

While Julia Defalco is making the Sunday AV job her own, there are still issues to be worked out. Editing the recording for YouTube and making sure she has backup both high among them. I would also like to see a camcorder capable of capturing more dynamic range – so both whoever is speaking and the background behind the podium are more visible (less washed out).

In reflection:

At last week's meeting of the Board Exec. Mary Ella rightly asked about (and I'm

paraphrasing her, so please let me know how on or off point this is, Mary Ella) the larger picture items before us this year. For example, the future of the Committee on Shared Ministry and our need to continually gauge how well we are matching what we

said in our Strategic Plan. With our installation around the corner, the Master Plan roll-out in preparation, the return of Fall Fair, our 125th Anniversary this February and

hosting the CUC Symposium in May, our plate is more than full.

Without dedicated volunteers to take a higher-level view of the congregation, my hope is that the Board will be able to carve out time and attention for this. At the very least, I hope that at year's end we can look back and say, This was what we needed to do. That, not so much moving forward.

This may not sound adequate to any of you (I'm not sure it does to me). I'm certainly open to your thoughts and hopes as well.

In shared faith,

Rev. Eric

Appendix 2

COVID Task Force Update

Recommendations for Board from Covid Task Force Sept. 27, 2022:

1. Continue required masks for services. Singing with them on is OK.
2. Masks are to be worn in meetings but may be removed when actually eating / drinking
3. Everyone, other than young children, at Messy Church, the Youth Group and other RE gatherings will wear masks other than when actually eating/drinking
4. Chalice Choir members who choose to do so may go into Fellowship Hall for a snack break and remove their masks when eating / drinking there
5. Everyone (volunteers and customers) at Fall Fair will wear masks. The number of volunteers and customers to be in the building at any one time is still being determined.
6. Rev. Eric's Installation may include a conversation gathering in Fellowship Hall after the ceremony but no food or drink can be consumed there. Masks will be available for anyone who arrives without one, just as we do for regular Sunday services.
7. Hospitality Hour in Fellowship Hall after Sunday service will not be held until further notice.