

Ottawa FirstU Board Meeting Minutes 2024-02-21

Date: Wednesday 2024/02/21

Time: 7pm-9pm

Main Goal: To better understand Ajashki plans, to appoint a campus negotiation team, to approve policy changes and public statements.

Attendance: Amy, Brent, Carmen, Chuck, Guy, Michelle, Nancy, Phil, Carl

Regrets: Rev Eric, Mary Ella, Jen

Timekeeper: Phil

Process Monitor: Guy

Minutes

Item
Early Check-in
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Call to Order○ Check-in○ Opening Song [Amy]○ Opening Reading [Nancy]○ Assignment of Timekeeper TBD and Process Monitor [TBD]
<p>2. Consent Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Approval of this Agenda○ Approval of Board Minutes 2024/01/24 [Att. 1]○ Receive President's Report [Note 1][Att.2]○ Membership approval for Carol Pearson [Note 2]○ Membership approval for Anne Orfald [Note 3]○ Acknowledge Exec Approval of re-engaging Karen Cooper [Note 4]○ Acknowledge Exec Approval of Ajashki grant application for CED [Note 5]○ Acknowledge Exec Approval of Ajashki grant application for United Way [Note 6] <p>Moved by Brent, Seconded by Guy. Passed</p>
<p>Follow-up on Unitarian House concerns--After FirstU Campus Planning Town Hall.</p> <p>Rev. Eric, Mary Ella, Jane and Carmen from FirstU met with UHouse in January. Some UHouse members are tired of stating their concerns and feeling overwhelmed. They don't want to attend an ongoing discussion group or talking circle. recommended by Rev. Eric or anyone else. They feel overwhelmed and worried and tired. There's a disconnect between FirstU and UHouse residents. Some UHouse residents don't feel appreciated by some members of the Board. May need some time to adjust and for healing and refocus once Rev. Eric</p>

comes back. Some UHouse members feel disconnected from FirstU. We'll need to mindfully address the rift when Eric comes back

4. Minister's Report [Rev Eric]... **deferred until March**

5. Reviewing our Board Covenant [Att.3]

1. All Board members should review and abide by the existing covenant. sent to all
2. All Board members are responsible for monitoring and assessing concerns / sentiment of other attendees, not just the Chair / President
3. Ability to be honest about our feelings and resolve any hurt feelings immediately
4. We'll revise Board Conflict Resolution policy at another time
5. Also, need to include Staff / Board interactions as part of process—to be addressed

6. Finance Policy Updates [Phil] [Att. 4,5,6]

- o VOTE on three policy updates FP-10, FP-16, FP-17

Moved: Phil, Seconded Nancy. Passed

7. EAG PPDDA on advocating more renewable energy [Note 8]

- VOTE on approving public advocacy.

Moved: Brent, Seconded Carl. Passed

8. Membership Task Force [Guy] [Att. 7]

- o Further Direction from Board required
- o Guy and Phil are on the task force as Board Members
- o Previously being a member depended on making a financial contribution. Not necessarily true going forward.
- o Cross referencing policies from other congregations throughout Canada and US.
- o Membership definition(s) has been modified to redefine what membership status actually is.... i.e. when a member is absent from all activities at FirstU for a long period of time, when do they become inactive or non-members
- o Children and Youth members are not required to donate
- o Terminology being used and written updates needs to be looked at by the Task Force
- o CUC charges approx.. \$50/member/year, and also a percent of total revenues
- o This requires a member policy definition change
- o Will this member definition update require a Bylaw update—can we consult Governance team to let us know whether this will require a ByLaw change, requiring a 2/3 congregational vote to approve.
- o Lay Chaplains must be a member
- o Individuals who are not yet members are referred to as Associates (instead of friends).

- Member policy re-definition task force can be considered to have fulfilled its role. Guy will take it back to the task force and Governance committee for final review.
- Is the term Associate the best term for a non-member?
- Board needs to approve all policies.

9. Campus Planning Update [Brent] [Note 7]

- Received a new draft Property Appraisal: +\$6 million once re-zoned—keep property appraisal confidential
- City re-zoning application returned from City Hall has numerous concerns and is not yet on board yet to rezone our property for a 16 story building
- Theia drafted 3 separate legal documents to govern the CPC land transfer and management process for the 16 story building. Lawyers Karen and Rita will deal with the agreement of purchase *sale and transfer and sale as well as Shareholders agreement. Lawyer Sheldon will deal with the Corporate and management document. Need to retain him to review the corporate agreement. OAHs has provided a draft legal document to their lawyer. Need to finalize the legal agreements before deciding on annual revenue to FirstU.
- We've budgeted for \$30k, but it could escalate
- VOTE on appointing negotiating team:
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board appoint and empower the following team to act as FirstU's negotiating team with respect to the final terms of the Land Transfer for the 16 story building: Terry Kimmel, Bill Van Iterson, Brent Nicolle, Chuck Shields, Lisa Sharp.

Moved by Brent. Seconded by Guy. Passed

10. Ajashki Update [Guy]

- To inform the Board of Maker Space (Craft Room) project
- Executive committee has already approved this Maker Space proposal for funding
- Makers space funds will be used to identify and create Indigenous products while ideally generating an independent and stable revenue stream inside of their charitable purposes. Also will include funding a business consultant who will provide the training on how to setup a profitable and self-sustaining business (\$17,000 for consultant to come from outside grant).
- Question: How to make the Ajashki project self-sustaining
- Ajashki has evolved to a full-fledged independent program over the last 5 years.
- Ajashki training and support is open to FirstU congregants interested in participating (Adult Learning)

Ajashki volunteers are burning out due to numerous grant proposals

11. More Board engagement with CCC [Note 10] [Carl]

Focused on minority groups that experience discrimination (Mental Health, LGBTQ2S+, Disability, BIPOC, ageism, etc.)

Core team (Nina, Jane, Carl, Julia, Lisa, Sharen) which will meet monthly or semi-monthly. While broader Circle will meet quarterly. Brent is interested in being on the CCC Circle

13. Closing

- Feedback from Process monitor
- Closing reading
- Adjournment