

FirstU Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 21, 2021 – ZOOM – 7:00 p.m.

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.

In attendance (10): Lisa Sharp (President), Guy Belleperche (Past President), Brent Nicolle (Vice-President), Caycee Price (Secretary), Justine De Jaegher (Treasurer), Rev. Pat Haresch; Members at Large: Andrew Drake, Carl Sonnen, David Chernushenko, and Irvin Waller

Guests: Larry F. Jones, E.N. Hill

References:

Agenda

Appendix 1: Minutes of Board Meeting from November 25, 2020

Appendix 2: Minister’s Report

Call to order 7:03pm

1. Welcome and call to order
 1. Opening Reading/ Song - Brent / Guy
 2. Selection of Process Monitor - David
 3. Brief check in by all attendees was done

2. Consent Agenda
 1. Approval of agenda
 2. Approval of Minutes from November 25, 2020 meeting, Appendix 1
 3. Motion to appoint Eva Berringer to the Campus Planning Committee as the official Environmental Action Group Representative
 4. Motion to appoint Guy Belleperche as Chair of Communications and Outreach Committee
 5. Motion to appoint Andrew Drake as Board representative to SRCT

Motion to move Consent agenda. Moved by Andrew, seconded by Brent, motion carries.

3. Committee Reports
 1. Stewardship - Pledge Campaign Final Report - Larry Jones
Larry gave a presentation on the Pledge Campaign Final Report
 2. Communications and Outreach - Update on hiring of new CC - Carl
Had the last interview today, now checking references. A possible candidate has been found and they will try to involve her earlier but officially her contract only starts in April.
 3. Finance - Motion to dispel Audit Committee - Justine/ Guy

Motion to dispel Audit Committee. Moved by Guy, seconded by Andrew, motion carries.

4. Governance - Updating policy on operating Bylaw #8 - Guy

Move that the board endorse that the board moved by Guy, seconded by Brent, motion carries.

5. Search Committee - Update by Lisa (from Jane Lindsey)

They received more than 12 applicants and have now completed the 1st round interviews. Next week they will be picking 3-4 candidates and the next round of interviews will be in February along with some sermon watching.

4. Staff Reports

1. Minister's Report

1. Re: Live Streams - currently on hold until Ontario restrictions are lifted.
2. Re: Holiday gifts for staff - people were as generous this year as previous years.
3. Liz Roper (previous DRE) is planning on coming back to the congregation and she is communicating with Rev. Pat and Neo (current DRE).

5. New Business

1. Update on Congregational Visioning - Justine & Lisa

Board members have been asked to act as facilitators in the Zoom breakout rooms. Justine has a draft of the day's events for people to review. We are encouraged to spread the word so that as many people as possible attend.

2. Report on UU-UNO Project - Irvin

Irvin reported that they are looking for delegates to take part in the UU-UNO seminar. Youth (18-25) especially but it is open to all ages. A notice will go in the E-UU to attract people and we are encouraged to spread the word. Note: this is an online event this year.

3. Activism/ Lobbying activities (PPDDA related) - Lisa reminded us that the procedure for when the board receives political related requests for action on, that it only needs approval by the minister, the president, and one other board member (3 people). We are encouraged to keep board announcements as exactly that and the various groups and committees should ideally be making their own announcements.

4. Should we reconsider our (currently duplicated) Board Announcements - not an official motion but consensus for now is that both types of announcements will continue for now.

6. Information Items

1. The congregation received a non-designated substantial bequest which will be discussed in greater detail at a future meeting.
2. Brent as covid task force advised that we have closed the church as of last week.
3. First U of Ottawa gave some of the surplus refugee money to the UU congregation in Halifax for which we received a "thank you note". On February 5th, 2020 they will be receiving a refugee lesbian couple.

7. Other Business

1. Board "Thankyous" - Larry F Jones, Search Team, Carl Sonnen, Fall Fair Committee (Carol, David, Margaret, and Jane). **Action item: Lisa.**
2. Board Announcements - Andrew / David
3. Next Meetings:
 1. Congregational Visioning/ Strategic planning Jan. 30, 2021 (Saturday) 10am to 3pm
 2. Campus Planning Feb. 3 (Wednesday) 7pm-9pm
 3. Board Meeting: February 17, 2021 (Wednesday) 7pm
 1. Opening Reading: Andrew
 2. Opening Song: Carl
 3. Closing Reading: Brent

8. Adjournment - Closing Reading - Caycee Adjourned at 9:39pm