

**Towson Unitarian Universalist Church
Board of Trustees
October 2022 Meeting**

Date/Time:	October 19, 2022
Meeting:	October Board Meeting
Participants:	Patty Barry, SaraRuth Davis, Andrew Hager, Ellie Hughes, Larry Magder, Michael Magrogen, Rev. Clare Petersberger, Susan Riggs, Samantha Saalfeld
Absent:	Tracey Myers-Preston
Guests:	
Location:	Zoom
Next meeting:	Wednesday, November 30 at 7:30 pm

Pre-meeting Action Items:

Activity	Owner	Target Date
These action items are to be completed before the meeting. Often, they are related to consent agenda items, which are items for which there is no discussion unless a member has a question concerning them.		
Read and provide revisions of minutes from the previous Board meeting.	All	10/19
Read reports.	All	10/19

Scheduled Agenda:

Chalice Lighting	Michael Magrogen
Go-Around Question	Andrew Hager
Consent Agenda	Owner
Approve minutes from September Board Meeting	Patty Barry
Accept Minister's Report (Appendix 1)	Rev. Clare Petersberger
Accept President's Report (Appendix 2)	Andrew Hager
Accept President-Elect's Report (Appendix 3)	Ellie Hughes
Accept Treasurer's Report - moved to Discussion Agenda	Larry Magder

Discussion Agenda	
<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>Our cash position is a little bit up from the end of August mainly because of the 13k quarterly draw from Endowment. Dan Alper recommended that the endowment should be drawn upon at the beginning of the quarter (beginning of October).</p> <p>Also, 45k was moved within Vanguard to the socially responsible investment fund, as requested by the Board.</p>	<p>Larry Magder</p>
<p>Targeted Appeal Discussion</p> <p>Andrew Hager suggested that we wait until November's Board meeting, in order for more figures to be set before we start the targeted appeal.</p> <p>Larry Magder will continue to communicate with the bookkeeper regarding the Building Fund. In June 2022, money was earmarked from the fund, some of which exists due to funds left from the PPP money. There is about \$40,500 in the fund. This includes approximately \$7000 remaining to be paid for the digital mixer, \$2500 for wood removal, and up to \$8000 for door replacement.</p> <p>Clare Flynn-Avallone investigated consulting with a contractor vs. an architect regarding the accessible bathroom renovation. She concluded that discussing the project with an architect first is the recommended route.</p>	<p>Andrew Hager</p>
<p>Membership Committee Report</p> <p>The membership Committee is hosting a four-session Our Journey Together program in November and December. Held on Zoom, it will be co-facilitated by Art Starr and Patty Barry.</p> <p>As a less formal way to connect with visitors, they will be holding a Newcomers Question and Answer Session this Sunday following service.</p>	<p>Patty Barry</p>

Discussion Agenda	
<p>The committee is pleased to welcome new member Susan Woolheiser, who has jumped right in enthusiastically.</p> <p>A current project is the development of a 1 to 2-page handout for newcomers, listing activities to help visitors form a connection.</p> <p>A longer-term idea is exploring ideas for the committee to work with DRE to help connect families with children in the RE program.</p> <p>The Board discussed various ideas about outreach. Currently, we use Facebook and our website. Perhaps the outreach effort can be aligned to the Board's goal to have a presence on YouTube.</p> <p>Also discussed was placing notices at local colleges, although that might require a commitment of a member going to their campuses.</p>	
<p>A-team Check-in</p> <p>Assuming we stay in the green zone, TUUC will be dropping the masking mandate as of November 1. Vaccination and masking are still encouraged. The Board voiced support for this decision.</p> <p>In terms of budgeting, we will need approximately \$2400 in the next 3 years to deal with a tree that could fall on Dulaney Valley Road</p> <p>The A-team sought approval for funds to purchase a chainsaw (\$750). This was approved by the Board.</p> <p>Rev. Clare gave the update that Church Insurance Rates are estimated to be going up between 12 and 40%.</p> <p>New A/v equipment will be installed next week. Continuing with hybrid ministry remains the plan.</p>	Rev. Clare Petersberger
<p>Church as Employer</p> <p>TUUC was notified by the UUA that the bookkeeper has put in enough hours with TUUC and other Unitarian churches to be eligible for retirement, 5% of wages as of January 2022.</p>	Rev. Clare Petersberger

Discussion Agenda	
<p>This will amount to \$1500 - 2000 more than we budgeted, including paying the amount back to 1/22. Given changes in other personnel positions, we may be within the personnel budget overall.</p>	
<p>Auction Report</p> <p>The decision about food and drink was deferred until the November 9 meeting.</p> <p>The bidding went live yesterday.</p> <p>TUUC maintains a rolling system of accepting donations, so it's certainly not too late to donate.</p> <p>Training sessions regarding Bid Beacon are ongoing. Even those who are attending the auction in person will need to use Bid Beacon.</p>	<p>Samantha Saafeld</p>
<p>Board Auction Gift</p> <p>The Board agreed on two Board Games with the Board events, one virtual (January 21) and one in person (April 29). Andrew and Samantha will coordinate entering the offerings in Bid Beacon.</p>	<p>Andrew Hager</p>
<p>Renewing Rev. Karyn Marsh's Agreement</p> <p>Karyn Marsh is still working with Lay Pastoral associates and preaching once per year. The changes in the agreement reflect alterations in her role at Hopkins. Karyn needs this agreement and an evaluation in order to get full fellowship.</p> <p>No Board vote was required, but Andrew will sign, as no Board member objected.</p>	<p>Rev. Clare Petersberger</p>

Having no further business before it, the meeting adjourned at 8:53

Appendix 1: Minister's Report

REPORT TO BOARD FROM REV. CLARE
October 14, 2022

Since my last report....
WORSHIP

On September 18th, we reflected on "Belonging and Justice." Hannah Freeman, the lead organizer for BRIDGE Maryland, Baltimore County joined us. We dedicated our Sunday School teachers. Ann Beezley, Nancy Caswell, and SarahRuth Davis shared their experiences of the BRIDGE training in August. And the time for all ages, on the difference between equity and equality, was illustrated with shoes and a boot! The TUUC Choir offered special music.

It was a joy to participate, remotely, in the September 25th worship service on belonging facilitated by members of the TUUC Membership Committee.

We began our exploration of courage through the lens of the Jewish High Holy Days and Yom Kippur. We introduced Kara Tyler, TUUC's Director of Religious Education, and she facilitated a time for all ages in which carrying around a heavy sack of potatoes was equated with carrying anger and resentment. Spice offered special music. And Mel Ginsburg kindly took the 40 pounds of potatoes to ACTC after the service.

On October 9 we reflected on having the courage to create a politics worthy of the human spirit. Kara led a time for all ages on inclusion and using one's voice. The Choir offered special music.

This Sunday, we will be reflecting on ordinary courage.

I officiated at the graveside service of Irv Greif in Churchville on September 27th.

I participated in a Ministers Brainstorming session for the Soul Matters theme of change in November.

I have met twice with Jimmy and Yvonne Jung to plan the celebration of life for Jeanie Jung on November 5th.

I am tentatively planning to conduct a celebration of life for Eve McGovern at Glen Meadows on October 24th.

I have been asked to officiate at the celebration of life of Ginny Billian. Although she was not a member of TUUC, her son, Michael's celebration of life was held at TUUC in 2014.

I have written thank you letters for contributions received in memory of Irv Greif and Nancy Hannah.

PASTORAL CARE

I have made 12 pastoral visits. I will be meeting with the Lay Pastoral Associates on October 16th.

PROGRAMMING

I attended the Sept. 29 YRE meeting, the October Program Council meeting; and the October Membership meeting.

Soul Matters Sharing Circles began on September 27th with Art Starr, Tracey Myers-Preston, Jane Selewach, and SarahRuth Davis co-facilitating. We have two circles and a total of 17 participants for this semester. I served as a sub for Tracey at our October 11th session.

Writing As A Spiritual Practice began on September 23rd with a prompt from the life of Queen Elizabeth II. We met again on October 7th with a prompt from the UU series Brave/Wiser about how we encounter uncertainty. We have an average of 6 participants.

SarahRuth Davis and I have been meeting weekly. George Harrison has agreed to chair the Ministerial Intern Committee. Other members include Marianne DeBow, Jane Selewach, Darla Tewell, and Luke Williams.

SarahRuth co-facilitated our first session of SACReD on October 2nd (the curriculum from the Spiritual Alliance of Communities for Reproductive Dignity.) Six participants registered for this first meeting. Four have registered for the repeat session on October 30th.

DRE SEARCH COMMITTEE

Our work is completed! Heartfelt thanks to Ellie Hughes, Chair, for all her labors of love during the search process; and to the other committee members, Lou Geiszl, Larry Magder, and Angela Castillo-Epps! It is a joy to have Kara on-board!

A-TEAM

(See separate report)

WIDER COMMUNITY

I attended the September 19th Legislative Session of the Baltimore County Council and was confirmed as a member of the Police Accountability Board with a single dissenting vote from Councilman Wade Kach. I have been appointed to serve one year. Our first meeting is October 28th.

I attended a September 29th meeting hosted by Planned Parenthood of Maryland for an update on their work three months after Roe v. Wade was struck down.

I attended the BRIDGE Maryland caucus for Religious Leaders on October 13th. Our guest speaker was Dr. Obery M. Hendricks who has written a book entitled *Christians Against Christianity: How Right-Wing Evangelicals Are Destroying Our Nation and Our Faith*.

I plan to attend the Race and Power Summit at the Maritime Conference Center November 30- Dec. 3.

<https://gamaliel.org/training-events/4th-biennial-race-and-power-in-america-summit/> The first session does conflict with our November Board meeting.

DENOMINATION

I attended a virtual three-hour training for UUMA Good Officers.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Clare

Appendix 2: President's Report

October 17, 2022

I am so glad to be back in the rhythms of the regular Church Year, with RE classes every week and our increasingly multi-generational approach to worship!

Since the last Board meeting, I have done the following:

I have met with Ellie Hughes to discuss Program Council goals and procedures. We also discussed other Board business and plans.

Ellie and I met with Reverend Clare to strategize for our annual Board goals.

On Sunday, October 16, I met with Kara Tyler to discuss her dreams and vision for the RE program. I am so excited to have her joining our staff and leading our students.

I attended the A-Team meeting as an observer.

Cabin Fever recently discussed African-American oral traditions with *Dolemite Is My Name* and the patriarchal repression of 19th-century high society with *The Age of Innocence*.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Hager

Appendix 3: President-Elect's Report

Activities since last report:

As President Elect, I had multiple meetings and conversations via Zoom and phone with Rev Clare and Andrew about church business. I convened the Program Council for a meeting on October 5th. Amid a general discussion about the need for volunteers, I agreed to take responsibility for scheduling our committees and programs to host coffee hour following service through November 6.

As Chair of the DRE Search Committee, I worked with Rev Clare and the committee to completion of the interview and hiring process, ratified by the Board on September 21.

As a member of (and Board liaison to) the Personnel Committee, I attended a meeting on September 15th at which we worked out the employment contract for the DRE, among other business.

As a member of the RE Committee, I attended the meeting on September 29th and taught the middle-school RE class each week from September 18th through October 16th

Appendix 4: Report from A-Team

COVID Matrix

Covid-19 metrics have continued to be in the green zone on Covid Act Now for over three weeks. Baltimore County and Baltimore County Public Schools have lifted requirements for masking and other pandemic-related restrictions. So the A-Team is proposing that, assuming this trend continues, as of November 1, 2022:

TUUC recommends, but does not require, masks for entering the building and participating in activities. This includes worship, hospitality, programs, and choir.

TUUC continues to strongly encourage everyone to be as vaccinated as possible.

TUUC requests that if you have been exposed to Covid-19 or are exhibiting symptoms, please stay home until you test negative for the virus.

TUUC asks that decisions to wear a mask and/or remain physically distanced should be respected and accommodated.

TUUC will continue to offer multi-platform worship and we are excited that the new AV equipment is scheduled to be installed the week of October 24.

Does the Board approve this plan which is in keeping with our Covid Matrix on the website?

Grounds

The A-Team has approved \$900 for Keil Tree Experts to do needed maintenance.

The Board needs to anticipate that the Grounds will require \$2,400 to take down the tree that is threatening our new sign and Dulaney Valley Road sometime in the next three years. It will cost an additional \$350 to grind up the stump.

The A-Team would like to approve \$750 from the Building Fund for capital equipment (such as a chain saw and battery) but we are awaiting a better understanding of what is actually in the Building Fund; what has already been promised; and how much we need to raise in a targeted appeal.

Todd Robertson has asked for more help at the monthly work parties.

There was a great turn out in July after the terrible storm when specific needs were communicated. Prior to each work party, we are going to publicize, through a Breeze e-mail, specific work that needs to be done by people of varying abilities. We are also going to publicize that young people can earn service work hours by attending a work party.

We are also going to work on personal invitations to people who might be able to serve to maintain our grounds.

Someone who can no longer help with work parties is making an anonymous donation to Sunshine Landscaping to help with grounds work over the next few months. The A-Team does not know the donor or the amount of the donation (which will not come through TUUC) but we are grateful!

Playground Fence

We are still waiting for a date when the new fence will be installed by Long Fence.

House

Please thank Kai Aiyetoro, Clare Flynn Avallone, Nick Troxel, and Jay Hauf for the installation of the new monitor in the foyer which can be used as a Smart TV.

New Door

Arundell Engineers is waiting for supplies and anticipates it will be installed in mid to late November.

Electrical Work

Dynamo will be returning to do ballast work downstairs and put a light sensor on our new sign so that it is not lighted 24 hours a day.

Security Company

We continue to have challenges with our security company and cameras going down.

Update from Church Mutual

Our rates will increase 12-40% when our policy renews in November. As of October 14th, we have not been given where our increase will fall in this range.

Targeted Appeal for TUUC Building Fund

We can't do a targeted appeal until we know what we are targeting and for how much.

The existing amount in the Building Fund will be cleared up with Arkady, Larry, Kai, and Dan.

The Board needs clarity on what the congregation was told the \$22,500 would be spent on: new mixer; new door for downstairs; etc.

We need to know if \$8,000 will be the actual cost of an architect to draw designs. A question was raised whether we should begin with the architect or a contractor.

So the A-Team is asking the Board to discern what it hopes to raise and for what purposes in a targeted fund raiser to be scheduled AFTER the auction.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Clare (on behalf of the other A-Team members: Kai Aiyetoro, Dan Alper, and Clare Flynn Avallone)