

**UCC Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**Tuesday, August 9, 2022 | 6:30-8:30 PM**

**Held via Zoom**

**Board of Trustees Attendance:**

Valerie Hsu, Executive Director  
Jenny Afkinich, President  
Melissa Affolter, First Vice President  
Laurie Coltri, Second Vice President  
Kevin Mercer, Treasurer  
Jim Johnston, Secretary  
Sarah Basehart, Member at Large  
Chris Crandell, Member at Large

Guests – John Harris, John Guy, Jennie Fitzpatrick, Barbara & Scotty Scott, Kirstin Nelson

**AGENDA**

Amended new business agenda – by unanimous consent Board agreed to add PNC Bank signature card to the new business agenda.

- Opening Words and Chalice Lighting —Laurie Coltri – from an NPR blog post

The doom-laden headlines of our times would seem to indicate there are two futures on offer.

In one, an Orwellian authoritarianism prevails. Fearful in the face of compounding crises – climate, plagues, poverty, hunger – people accept the bargain of the Strong man, their leader's protection in return for unquestioning allegiance as "subjects". What follows is the abdication of personal power, choice, or responsibility.

In the other, everyone is a "consumer" and self-reliance becomes an extreme sport. The richest have [their boltholes in New Zealand](#) and a ticket for Mars in hand. The rest of us strive to be like them, fending for ourselves as robots take jobs and as the competition for ever-scarcer resources intensifies. The benefits of technology, whether artificial intelligence, bio-, neuro- or agrotechnology, accrue to the wealthiest – as does all the power in society. This is a future shaped by the whims of Silicon Valley billionaires. While it sells itself on personal freedoms, the experience for most is exclusion: a top-heavy world of haves and have-nots.

Yet despite the bandwidth and airwaves devoted to these twin dystopias, there's another trajectory: we call it the "citizen future".

The citizen story can replace the consumer, as the consumer replaced the subject.

In order to realize the citizen future, we must neither accept what we are given as the only possibility, as subjects do; nor throw our toys from the pram when we do not like what is on offer, as consumers do. As citizens, we must propose, not just reject. We must establish a foundation of belief in one another. We must start from where we are, accept responsibility, and create meaningful opportunities for each other to contribute as we do so. We must step up, and step in.

This is why the most essential work in this time should be a reimagining of what leadership is. If those in positions of power act as if there is nothing wrong, nothing to see here, our mistrust in them deepens still further. Leaders who build the citizen future start by acknowledging uncertainty, sharing questions and challenges *with* us rather than providing (or failing to provide) answers *for* us. They create opportunities for us to participate and contribute. They cultivate so-called "**safe uncertainty**": acknowledging unknowns, not denying them. They don't pretend to know exactly what the future looks like. They do reassure us that we will best build it by working together. As the philosopher and activist adrienne maree brown puts it: "No one is special; everyone is needed."

- Spiritual Practice —Jenny Afkinich. Jenny led the Board in a discussion of chapter one of *Mistakes and Miracles - Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism* by Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin. This book is UUA's common read for this year.

Board engaged on two discussion questions – What are our compelling calls to faith; and what consensus can we create about expressing our call to faith and how can we share this with our congregation?

Board members appreciated the history of UUA's struggles in our work on anti-racism, highlighted by 1969 actions to defund the Black Affairs Council, reflecting a history of broken promises and the need for accountability in undertaking these actions. Our principles provide a foundation and framing for approaching our anti-racism work; the intersectionality of racism and the need to break out of an us versus them view of the world. The chapter emphasized accepting the brokenness and beauty of our interactions and it's our culture not our theology that's our biggest barrier to improvement. A focus on humility aids in this transition.

- Consent Agenda
  - Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – July 12, 2022
  - Incidentals Report – August 2022
  - Treasurer's Report – June 2022

Approved by unanimous consent

- Old Business

Treasurer's Minute—Kevin Mercer.

Kevin went over the July budget statement Highlights include We received 99% of pledges for the 2021-22 fiscal year (\$679,258), and we ended the

Fiscal year with a \$17,000 balance; funding from prior year pledges is applied to the FY received; but the pledge is linked to the pledge period it was linked to. Our reserves are lower than in prior years and establishing a plan for replenishing our reserves.

The Stewardship Committee is looking for volunteers to assist with this year's pledge drive.

- New Business

- Signature Card for PNC Bank Account

The Congregation has an account with PNC bank that was designed for deposits of Sunday offerings. Over time we have adopted different methods for depositing the donations and are no longer using the PNC account. In order to close the account, we need to update the signature card to reflect current officer and empower them to close the account.

Motion by UUCC Treasurer Kevin Mercer/2nd by Laurie to add, UUCC Executive Director, Valerie Hsu as a signatory for the PNC Account.

Approved Unanimously

- Ombuds Proposal—Jennie Fitzpatrick.

Jennie provided a brief summary of the Group Relations Workshop Committee's work. The GRW final report will be available soon and will include a number of recommendations. Jennie presented a draft proposal to establish a UUCC Ombuds program for the Board's review. She pointed out that many government agencies, and health care facilities has Ombuds and that the proposal is responsive to comments from some UUCC members seeking an institutional mechanism to address conflicts. The goal is to recruit and train UUCC volunteers to serve as Ombuds providing a resource to support the early resolution of conflicts.

Questions focused on clarifying the role and function for how an Ombuds program might work at UUCC. Ombuds often serve as advocates for persons with complaints and represent them in dealing with the entity they have having issues with. It also seems that the Ombuds function could be very similar to the to the functions and role of a Committee on Right Relations, which is the next step after the Covenant on Right Relations.

The Board will review the draft proposal, and our Right Relations planning at the upcoming Board Retreat and action on the Ombuds proposal was tabled until the September Board meeting.

- Introduction to the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI)—Kirstin Nelson.

Kirstin presented a slide presentation introducing IDI and its assessment tool, which is based on a person's cultural group identify. Board members are asked to complete the assessment before the Retreat. At the retreat, Kirstin will present a group level analysis of our results and after the retreat Board

members will schedule a one-on-one session with Glen Peterson to review our individual results and develop Individual Development Plans.

- Upcoming
  - Board Retreat: August 20<sup>th</sup> at OBIC (9-5 ET)
- Closing Words —Sarah Basehart. In honor of today being national holding hands day, Sarah presented the following poem -

Holding Hands by Ken Crowe

My arm around you,  
a smile on your face  
What better place  
in this human race

To walk hand in hand  
wherever life takes us  
is a wonderful plan  
for this earthly span

At day's end, the pleasure  
of standing close together  
viewing the reds and golds  
of a glorious evening sky