

UUCC Board of Trustees
Tuesday, March 14, 2023 | 6:30-8:30 PM

Board of Trustees Attendance:

Paige Getty, Senior Minister
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 – Kirk Freeman, Liam Estell, Khylei Shelor, Lindsay Thompson, John Guy, Mary Rodgers, Phil Webster, John Harris, Olivia Wright, Mariam Khambaty

AGENDA

- Opening Words and Chalice Lighting — Chris Crandell
- Things that count by Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Now, dear, it isn't the bold things,
Great deeds of valour and might,
That count the most in the summing up of life at the end of the day.
But it is the doing of old things,
Small acts that are just and right;
And doing them over and over again, no matter what others say;
In smiling at fate, when you want to cry, and in keeping at work when you want to play—
Dear, those are the things that count.

And, dear, it isn't the new ways
the wonder-seekers crowd
That lead us into the land of content, or help us to find our own.
But it is keeping to true ways,
Though the music is not so loud,
And there may be many a shadowed spot where we journey along alone;
In flinging a prayer at the face of fear, and in changing into a song a groan—
Dear, these are the things that count.

My dear, it isn't the loud part
Of creeds that are pleasing to God,
Not the chant of a prayer, or the hum of a hymn, or a jubilant shout or song.
But it is the beautiful proud part
Of walking with feet faith-shod;
And in loving, loving, loving through all, no matter how things go wrong;
In trusting ever, though dark the day, and in keeping your hope when the way

seems long—

Dear, these are the things that count.

- Spiritual Practice — Chris Crandell

Based on chapter five of *Mistakes and Miracles*- Chris invited the Board to consider the question - All Souls (in Tulsa) discovered resources for deepening its cross-racial conversation and relationships through working with their local YWCA. To which organization in your wider community can you turn to for inspiration, accountability, and resources? What steps do you need to take to build your relationships with these community partners?

Board members cited a number of community groups and resources including: The Medication and Conflict Resolution Center, Maryland Non-profits organization, Freetown Farm, CASA, Cradlerock Children's Center, Owen Brown Library, Lake Elkhorn Elementary School, and reaching out to other congregations that worship at the Owen Brown Interfaith Center. The most commonly cited partner was People Acting Together in Howard (PATH). UUCU is a member of PATH and we have coordinated with others through PATH many issues and projects.

- Consent Agenda

- Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes — February 14, 2023
- Incidentals Report — March 2023
- Treasurer's Report — January 2023

Approved by unanimous consent

- Reports

- Sabbatical Planning — Paige Getty
Continuing weekly blog posts. Kirk Freeman will be serving as on-call pastor. Kirk is a member of All Souls in DC and is finishing his divinity degree at Wesley Theological Seminary in DC. Kirk also serves as a chaplain at the NIH clinical center. His primary roles will be support for the Board and staff, and pastoral care.
- CRR Committee — Kevin Mercer
Committee is meeting monthly and will continue to hold post service conversation circles and 2-minute sharing time during services.
- Vision, Mission, Ends (VME) Committee — Jenny Afkinich
150 people participated in the facilitated sessions. Much thanks to all who facilitated and participated. Lindsay Thompson is compiling the data for the upcoming Board retreat.

- Pledge Drive — Paige Getty
As of 3/14, the pledge drive has raised \$349,785 with 60 pledges
- New Business
 - VME Facilitated Conversations Check-In — Jenny Afkinich
Board members are reminded to bring notes from their sessions to the retreat. People in several VME sessions asked Board members to discuss what we mean by “beloved community”.
 - UUA’s Green Sanctuary Certification — Mary Rodgers
Mary provided an update on the status of UUCC’s green sanctuary applications. We have now completed step 3 (Action Report) of the 5 steps to being certified. Documents are posted on the climate team’s webpage.

The Action Report has three sections: Mitigation, Adaption and Resilience, and Social Justice, with a number of action steps under each heading. Major themes for this year include a focus on combating greenhouse gases, pursuing social justice, and increasing participation.

- Annual Meeting Planning — Jenny Afkinich
We are following the timeline/ task list used to prepare for the 2022 Annual meeting. Jenny, Melissa and Jim will be meeting 4/4 to continue planning. Greg Seidman has agreed to serve as parliamentarian for the Annual Meeting
- RISE Against Hunger Recap — Mariam Khambaty
Over 70 people joined together to package over \$8,000 worth of food items. At the RISE against hunger event on 2/25. Mariam expressed thanks for the Congregation’s direct donation and for including Rise Against Hunger as a Second Sunday partner.
- Policy Change Proposal — Nominating Committee
Colette Gelwicks, Chair of the nominating committee presented two recommendations- one to amend the Board policy regarding the 2-year membership requirement to serve as an officer, and the another to amend the Congregational Bylaws to create a youth/young adult Board of Trustees position, likely with a short term of office.

The Board focused conversation on the recommendation to change the Board policy within their control.

- . Regarding the 2-year membership requirement, several members and Colette recalled prior years when a long -time friend of the Congregation offered to serve, but was prevented to by the 2 year

membership requirement. Especially since the pandemic, the line between membership and friends has blurred somewhat and we want to encourage and acknowledge active participation, even if it starts before “signing the book”.

The Board believes the 2-year relationship with the Congregation is useful for potential officers but believes that relationship can begin before a person formally becomes a member. However, all potential officers must be UUCC members in order to run for office. Based on the discussion, Sarah Basehart introduced the following motion/2nd Jim Johnston to amend the Board Policy regarding the two-year membership requirement.

Motion: In order to meet the qualifications necessary to be a Board member, prospective Board members must be a voting member of UUCC and must have demonstrated commitment to the Congregation through volunteer service and financial gifts for at least two years and be willing to serve on the Board for a full term.

Motion approved with 6 in favor and 1 abstention

- Upcoming
 - March 24 & 25 — Nested Bowls Retreat
 - April 11 — BOT Meeting
 - June 21-25 — UUA General Assembly (uua.org/ga)
- Closing Words — Jim Johnston (3 min.)

Natalie Bolz-Weber from *Accidental Saints*

“And this is it. This is the life we get here on earth. We get to give away what we receive. We get to believe in each other. We get to forgive and be forgiven. We get to love imperfectly. And we never know what effect it will have for years to come. And all of it ... all of it is completely worth it.”