

**UCC Board of Trustees**  
**Tuesday, September 12, 2023 | 6:30-8:30 PM**  
OBIC and Zoom option

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87442079168?pwd=YUdPMdICc3ZlUlhEUytmDIWNzRTdz09>

Meeting ID: 874 4207 9168

Passcode: 330990

**UCC MISSION**

***UCC embodies love in action. We:***  
***Nurture spirits***  
***Build community***  
***Act for justice***

**Board Trustees in Attendance:**

Melissa Affolter, President  
Laurie Coltri, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Regina Verow, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Meagan Lopes, Secretary  
Kevin Mercer, Treasurer  
Becky Reese, Member at Large  
Pamela Henry, Member at Large  
Valerie Hsu, Executive Director, (ex officio)  
Paige Getty, Minister (ex officio)

Guests: Chris Crandell via Zoom

*Please note that this is an open meeting; the Board will be meeting in person at the Owen Brown Interfaith Center with a Zoom link (see above). Visitors are welcome to observe, though all visitors must identify themselves; no anonymous visitors will be allowed. All guests will be muted when joining the meeting.*

- **Opening Words and Chalice Lighting** — Kevin Mercer (5 min.)  
“Speak a new language so that the world will be a new world.” Rumi
  
- **Spiritual Practice** — Kevin Mercer (5 Min.)  
“When we sit at the beginning of any spiritual practice, be it meditation, yoga, contemplation, or another form of reflections, we take time to bring our awareness to our inner being. We close, or softly focus our eyes to block out the myriad of stimuli in our everyday life and focus on the simple movement of our natural breath. Just that. As we feel the breath moving and our body expanding and contracting with that movement, we affirm that we’re alive, we’re breathing, and we are part of the miracle of the Universe. We are part of the pulsation of life. And that pulsation is what the symbol of “om” represents- a connection of our body, breath, mind, and spirit with the vibration of the Universe.” Lucy Lomax

**Led in Yoga OM-3** separate sounds A-U-M repeated 3 times

- **Consent Agenda** (2 min.)
  - Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – August 8, 2023
  - Incidentals Report — August 2023
  - Treasurer’s Report — July 2023

**Approved Consent Agenda items as presented by unanimous consent  
Move to approve- Becky Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> Regina Verow**

- **Old Business**
  - Ethical Eating – Chris Crandell [Presentation](#)
    - Plan is to promote a Plant Based Food Policy at UUCC
      1. Reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by increasing and highlighting plant-based food offerings at congregational events, and reducing our consumption of animal products.
      2. Inspire UUCC members to pass a congregational resolution adopting a Default Plant-Based Food Policy similar to the following one adopted by River Road UUC in 2021-purchased food from congregational funds are plant based
    - For those who might have concerns, this is not a request for UUCC members to become vegan or to ban all animal products from UUCC events.
    - In keeping with UU 7<sup>th</sup> principle- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part-eating fewer animal products
    - This past weekend’s pancake breakfast was plant based/vegan
    - Plan to offer more veggie meals, education and webinars
    - Would like Board approval to move forward on plant based food policy- to be voted on at Annual Meeting in 2024 or 2025
  - Board questions:**

Question/Answer discussion included concerns of allergens, dietary needs, policy as inclusionary, food insecurity, catering events where people have specific dietary needs, costs.

Specifically- Why a policy vs making plant based eating the center/focus? “Default” Policy- plant based food at our events but for potlucks other foods are not banned

Policy considered after town halls, education, however this is not in keeping with the Board’s main focus for this year.

**While the Board supports the efforts to educate and motivate the UUCC community toward a diet with less environmental impact, it had some concerns about the concept of board 'approval' in light of remaining questions, and later corresponded with Chris to clarify that it supports the efforts of the group to educate and motivate congregants, but not a specific policy at this time.**

**The Board will send an official letter in response to Chris’s request of Board support for Plant Based food policy**

- Reaching out to distanced members  
Kevin Mercer- reached out to several current members who would be interested in contacting distanced members- 3 have agreed Discussion to have a Board subcommittee vs independent body- was agreed that there is an advantage if it is not Board related; Executive team can provide member data to generate list of people to call  
Decision was made to move forward- not as a Board Committee, will work with Executive Team to determine list starting from 2017
- Board Committee – Governance  
Bylaws outdated, inaccurate; last update was 2013; Committee to review By-laws; determine what is out of date and give recommendation for changes.  
Other changes that are more substantive; more reflect our Values, Mission and Ends  
We discussed the possibility of establishing a standing Committee on governance and running a review this year as a pilot of that idea. By-laws should be revised every 3-5 years, according to the UUA's governance consultant.  
Substantive bylaws revisions will require significant conversations with the congregation.  
There was a Governance review team identified during the Group Relations Workshop. Becky will share with the board the team members and status of the team's efforts. The work was put on hold in order to prioritize the Values, Mission, Ends work in 2022. Some of the team members may still be willing to serve on the team. The team needs to be more diverse, and ideally include some younger members as well.  
Melissa provided a draft Charge for Committee to Amend Bylaws and Investigate Implementing a Standing Bylaws Review Committee- this will be re-evaluated based on above conversation
- Welcome & Announcements schedule - in SharePoint
- Youth Board Position: no applications submitted- Some have expressed interest in the spring- will continue to search
- **New Business**
  - Treasurer's Report – Kevin Mercer  
Proposal for New Member Congregation to OBIC- This is the start of a conversation for the possibility of expanding ownership. This will require a lot of discussion within the congregation over the next few years.

Pros- Lean into Jim Rouse's vision of an Interfaith Center- currently we own 90% of the building; also, would help with mortgage debt; and spread the costs of owning the building

Cons- give up some control of OBIC; we have historically put in a lot of resources into the building; may be contentious among the members; harder to make a unanimous decision about building.

Methodists and the OBIC board would have to agree.

The process of taking on a new owning member would be robust

- Review of Board-Staff Linkage and Administrative Limits -  
Wording/instructions are often murky; needs clarification (example C. Delegation #2 "instruct" any paid staff)  
At the end of last year, the Executive Team requested more specific guidance on monitoring from the Board – employment evaluation parameters as an example  
The review of the Board-Staff Linkage Document and Administrative limits were not completed by the end of the meeting and will be raised again, possibly with some coordination between meetings.  
Definitions and clarifications: Paige offered the following interpretations of the Board's governance documents-  
**Administrative limitations-** Board's Statement of Values  
**Ends-** every decision is made to further the ends and the executive team is able to do anything to further those ends  
**Board staff linkage** – defines the relationship between the Board and the staff  
**By-laws-** guidance from the congregation authorizing the parameters within which the Board may act on its behalf to oversee how congregation is run.  
**Governance-** relationship with each other (on the Board) expressed in policies to guide the Executive Team  
**Monitoring-** define what Board wants as basic parameters of end of year monitoring

- **Assignments** for next meeting (October 10, 2023)

**Laurie-** First draft of Board's response letter to Chris' presentation to be circulated and reviewed by the Board

**Bylaws Charter-** send feedback before next meeting

**Becky-** will provide names of team members and information from the Engaging the Congregation in governance team from the Group Relations Workshop Enabling Action team.

**Communicate via Sharepoint**

- **Closing Words** — Kevin Mercer (5 min.)

"There's more than one answer to these questions pointing (us) in a crooked line.

The less (we) seek (our) source for some definitive, the closer (we) are to fine.

Emily Saliers