

First Unitarian Church of Victoria
DRAFT MINUTES for BOARD MEETING on WEDNESDAY, March 13th, 2024
by Zoom 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Trustees: Jim Willis, Adriane Matheson-Smith, Kristina Stevens, Audrey Taylor, Katherine Maas, Al Hoffman, Jeri Dause, Evelyn Peters, Mariko Matsumoto, Barry Wiebe

Ministers: Rev. Shana Lynngood, Rev. Melora Lynngood

Regrets:

Guests: June Fukushima, John Worton

1. Call to order

Meeting called to order at 5:32pm.

2. Selection of Timekeeper and Process Observer

Audrey Taylor volunteered as process observer, Jeri Dause volunteered as timekeeper.

3. Chalice Lighting – Audrey Taylor. (March – Al Hoffman) [*NB: The chalice lighter for the meeting also has the responsibility of reviewing the minutes from the meeting in detail.]

4. Check-in: Joys and Concerns

5. Approval of Agenda

Mariko Matsumoto moves to approve the agenda, Katherine Maas seconds. **Carried.**

6. Approval of Minutes

Jeri Dause moves to approve the minutes from the February board meeting, Mariko Matsumoto seconds. **Carried.**

7. Unfinished Business

7.1. Updated BMOD Instructions – Katherine Maas

Katherine Maas shared the updated version of the BMOD instruction document.

The document still contained some outstanding questions. First the board discussed if it was necessary to arrive at 9am on long weekends. Jeri Dause proposed that 9:30am should be acceptable as currently church staff do not arrive at 9am. There was still uncertainty on when the farm house should be opened on long weekends or when church staff is not present. Katherine Maas agreed to ask Niki Mullin on when the farm house should be opened.

Second the board discussed checking on the children’s program during the service. Katherine Maas will ask Anna Isaacs if any documentation is required to confirm that the check has been completed.

Next the board discussed Anna Isaacs proposal that the BMOD carries a classroom key, with a notice on the door between the family wing and the lion hall to ask the BMOD if access is needed. Melora proposed that keys to the classrooms could be in the office so the BMOD can access it if absolutely necessary.

7.2. Discussion on Selling the Triptych – Mariko Matsumoto

Mariko met with the Arts and Aesthetics committee. Progress is being made on trying to find a person who can facilitate the sale.

8. Reports

8.1. Ministers Report

Rev. Shana stated that this week they are interviewing potential music directors. Rev. Shana is excited by the ongoing work of the strategic planning team and the marketing/targeted messaging initiative. Rev. Melora stated that she is still working on the Mission statement and is hoping to provide an update soon hopefully with the hope that it will be ready for the AGM.

8.2. President's Report – Jim Willis

The CUC AGM coming up, motions include to add Terra Nullius doctrine of discovery, to recommend defunding fossil fuels, and to set priorities for 2024-2026. Jim Willis requested that anyone interested in attending submits their names to him.

8.3. Treasurers Report – Kristina Stevens

The end of February represents 16.7% of the year. Thus far the church has received 17.2% of income. Expenditures are currently at 13.3%.

8.4. Congregation Life Report – Katherine Maas

Nancy Dobbs has requested to resume handing out hymnals and collecting them again at the end of the service. The Welcome team is reluctant to distribute them again. The choir put them out and agreed to put them away when they are there. The welcome team wants to continue to just handing them out as requested. Katherine Maas is concerned about implementing an inconsistent process and will continue to look into determining the best way forward.

9. Process Observer Report

10. New Business

10.1. ZGOF and B Hackler Estate Gift - June Fukushima, John Worton

Motion: Audrey Taylor moves that the terms of reference for the establishment of the Zoie Gardner Overseas Fund (ZGOF) referred to in the resolution of June 18, 2014 establishing the ZGOF resolution be replaced with the changes outlined in the updated resolution document. Evelyn Peters seconds.

Discussion: June Fukushima, the chair of the Zoie Gardner fund provided some background on the fund. Currently the committee is spending down the fund with the intention that the fund will end in three years. The church receives 5% of any donations. B Hackler estate has ~\$2,000,000 that could go into the fund but the fund needs some changes to accept the bequest and the Board needs to agree to accept the additional funds and make a commitment to continue the fund. The \$2,000,000 will likely take 7-10 years to disburse. June Fukushima stated that she will step down as chair in 3 years.

John Worton stated that the executor who is considering giving the money expressed concern on the church's ability to receive the money and the succession plan for those who will administer the fund. John

Worton was hoping that the number of trustees will go from 3-5 to 5-10 with the intent to stagger terms so experienced individuals and newer individuals will always be present.

Jim Willis stated that we need to decide if we as the church can take on this task and that there will be people 5-10 years on who will continue to manage the fund. Currently the fund provides donations to 6 charities. June Fukushima states that they could give to more charities but it takes time to establish relationships with new charities.

Rev. Shana stated that if we say yes to these funds, we will have to ensure that the nominating committee will actively seek out individuals to be trustees for the fund. Primary concern for taking this on is getting enough volunteers to take on the necessary committee roles.

Katherine Maas stated that the sixth clause needs a minor amendment.

The board agreed to accept the resolution provided John Worton makes the necessary amendment to the sixth clause.

Carried.

10.2. Paint Fund – Al Hoffman

Motion: Moved by Al Hoffman, seconded by Katherine Maas that the Board approve the recommendation to establish a painting fund.

Background: Request from Earle Anthony, Chair of Building and Maintenance committee to establish a painting fund so any amount set aside for painting in a given year that is unspent is rolled over into the next year so a contractor can be hired to do more extensive painting on the building.

Discussion: Some concerns were expressed on establishing new funds when we are trying to reduce the number of funds. Overall agreement that this fund would be valuable

Carried.

10.3. Discussion of CUC Membership – Jim Willis

Motion: Hugo Sutmoller brought forth a consideration during the 2024 Budget meeting to reconsider CUC membership. Whereas the 2023 budget shows an unsustainable and record-breaking deficit of \$39,000.00 and whereas the membership levee of CUC is \$29,000.00, may it be resolved that the Board will revisit the membership of the CUC and may it further be resolved that the Board will open negotiations with the CUC to reduce the present membership fee.

Discussion: The board discussed the need to provide education on the benefits of CUC membership and the implications of leaving. The proper procedure for how to follow up with the motion also needs to be determined.

Defer further discussion to next months board meeting.

10.4. Environmental and Climate Action Committee Question – Evelyn Peters

Evelyn will follow up with an email for advice.

11. Membership Changes – Adriane Matheson-Smith

12 months (Mar1-Mar1) - 51 newcomer forms, 25 new members/friends

last month (Feb1-Mar1) 5 newcomer forms

No membership changes.

12. Announcements

- 12.1. **Next Board Meeting: April 10, 2024**
- 12.2. **Arran Morton ordination is April 13, 2024**
- 12.3. **CUC AGM May 25, 2024**
- 12.4. **FUCV AGM and FUCV Foundation AGM May 26, 2024**
- 12.5. **June 23, 2024 UU AGM.**
- 12.6. **Reilly Yeo ordination is September 28, 2024**

13. Questions from FUCV Members – Adriane Matheson-Smith

14. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:34pm.

BOARD MEMBER ON DUTY ROSTER (*please check your dates for any conflicts)

Please e-mail Adriane if you switch BMOD dates with someone - she will update the list and notify the office.

Date	Board Member on Duty
March 24, 2024	Barry Wiebe
March 31, 2024	Jim Willis
April 7, 2024	Katherine Maas
April 14, 2024	Evelyn Peters
April 21, 2024	Jeri Dause
April 28, 2024	Adriane Matheson-Smith
May 5, 2024	Mariko Matsumoto
May 12, 2024	Al Hoffman
May 19, 2024	Audrey Taylor

WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE

Date	Topic/Minister	Attendance (#Devices + # People in Sanctuary/Lion Hall)
February 11, 2024	CUC Sharing our Faith: Love and Justice / Rev. Danielle Webber	32 + 78
February 18, 2024	Justice Now / Rev. Shana	41 + 79
February 25, 2024	"I Don't Know" / Rev. Melora	32 + 103
March 3, 2024	The Right to Thrive / Jennifer Charlesworth	18 + 92
March 10, 2024	How Life Moves Us / Rev. Shana	51 + 118