

**First Unitarian Church of Victoria**  
**DRAFT MIUTES for BOARD MEETING on WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2024**  
**by Zoom 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM**

*Choosing our own paths, we come together to grow in spirit;  
to honour and celebrate our connection to each other and the natural world;  
to listen with humility to the wisdom of each person's experience;  
to work together for justice, and co-create a diverse and thriving community,  
where all feel respected, cared for, and held in love.*

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Trustees: Jim Willis, Audrey Taylor, Matt Britton, Adriane Matheson-Smith, Barry Wiebe, Katherine Maas,  
Lynne Bonner, Karen Sharlow

Ministers: Rev. Shana Lynngood, Rev. Melora Lynngood

Regrets: Mariko Matsumoto, Al Hoffman

Guests: Mary Theal

**1. Call to order**

Meeting called to order at 5:33pm.

**2. Selection of Timekeeper and Process Observer**

Katherine Maas volunteered as time keeper. Matt Britton volunteered as process observer.

**3. Chalice Lighting** – Adriane Matheson-Smith. (September – Matt Britton) [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**

Lynne Bonner and Matt Britton move to approve the agenda, Katherine Maas seconded. **Carried.**

**6. Approval of Minutes from June Board Meeting**

Adriane Matheson-Smith moves to approve the June board meeting minutes. Matt Britton seconds. **Carried**

**7. Business and Reports – Order: Guests, Unfinished Business, Reports, New Business**

7.1. Tapestry – Mary Theal

Mary Theal has been working with Gail Tyshynski on the sale of the triptych textile assemblage by renowned Victoria artist, Carole Sabiston. Gail Tyshynski has a background in sales and marketing and is interested in facilitating its sale. Initially the tapestry was believed to be valued around \$19,000. After several assessments the tapestries value is likely around \$5,000 - \$7,000. Gail Tyshynski was initially asking for a 15% commission, however given the lower value is asking for the board to sign a document stating that they will receive a 25% commission on the sale of the tapestry. Gail Tyshynski has created a biography of the piece and is ready to promote it to her contacts. Audrey Taylor noted that it is 25% plus expenses. Mary Theale stated that the expenses are the \$500 approved by the board at a previous

meeting and has stated that ~\$64 of that has been spent. Mary Theal was for this agreement. The board discussed and agreed however wanted the document to specify that we approve expenses up to \$500.

Matt Britton moves to approve the agreement with the additional clarification about expenses. Audrey Taylor seconded. **Carried.**

**Action: Mary Theale will update the document with the stated \$500 in expenses. Jim Willis will sign the document on behalf of the board.**

## 7.2. Ministers Reports

Rev. Melora discussed how the same group who redid the congregations mission statement will be working together to reconsider the church's name.

Rev. Shana stated that our new music director began August 1. Rev. Shana is also excited to be moving a lot of the 5-year strategic plan pieces forward. Proposals for how the endowment funds (amounts that the congregation has given permission for), will be used are coming in the fall.

## 7.3. Treasurers Report – Matt Britton

Matt Britton discussed both June and July. The church is in a good position right now, rental income is up 10% over what was expected. The church has received some unexpected legacy gifts earlier this year so we are double what was anticipated by this time in the year. Pledges are \$5,500 lower than expected. Currently the church is in the black by ~\$6,000.

## 7.4. Council Reports

### 7.4.1. Congregational Life Report – Katherine Maas

Katherine Maas wanted to bring the board's attention to an incident that occurred two Sundays prior, when a toddler was making noise and throwing a ball during the service. That Sunday there was no children's programming and there were no toys put out in the back of the sanctuary. The Welcome Team became concerned that the ball might strike and startle or injure a member of the congregation, so one team member spoke to the parent, who became upset. In the wake of the incident, the Welcome Team raised questions about when to intervene and who should be responsible for taking action in such a case – the Welcome Team? The BMOD? The board agreed that given we are an intergenerational community we need to accept that these instances can occur and we want to take the approach that parents are doing their best. A suggestion was made to approach the child with a distraction rather than the parent if such a situation should arise again in the future. Rev. Shana has spoken with the parent, and stated she intends to incorporate some content around situations like this into Welcome Team training being planned for September.

#### 7.4.1.1. Dogs during service – Jim Willis

Jim Willis brought up a complaint regarding a dog in the Lion Hall. The church has several dogs that come regularly without incident. The board does not wish to put limitation on dogs at this time; however, if there are more complaints Rev. Melora suggested that a reminder be put into the newsletter with expectations on dogs in the church. J

## 7.5. Disclaimer Policy – Adriane Matheson-Smith

As per section 3 of the disclaimer policy a third member of the board must be appointed for requests committees may make if they cannot fulfil section 2 of the policy.

The Board agreed that the Vice President will be the third person unless they need to recuse themselves due to a conflict of interest. If that occurs, another member of the board will be chosen on an ad hoc basis.

**Action: Adriane Matheson-Smith will update section 3 of the disclaimer policy and send it to the board for final approval. No vote was conducted as the policy was previously approved.**

#### 7.6. ECAC requests for approval in principle

1) **Film Night:** ECAC is proposing to show the film "Fracking the Peace" in Victoria, possibly at Broadview United (at the former St. Aidan's site) at one of their film nights on **Sat, Sept 28th**. This has not been confirmed yet and could be moved to other venues or dates. This would be in collaboration with Dogwood and possibly Stand.Earth and open to the public.

**FUCV Film Showing:** ECAC is proposing to show the film "Fracking the Peace" at our Church after the service on Sunday, September 22 (12 Noon until 1:30 pm, Sanctuary booked tentatively). This would be open to anyone attending the Church service. This would be in collaboration with Dogwood and possibly Stand.Earth.

The Board agreed that, provided the disclaimer policy is followed, then ECAC can show the film.

2) ECAC would also like to propose that a portion of **the EV charging revenue** be transferred to a special EV charging account for future upgrades to the EV charging station. Perhaps from one month of the year (when attendance is good - say September), or, possibly other formulas. Upgrades might include additional charging ports and a proper POS (Point of Sale) terminal to handle credit card payments for charging. We understand that a number of people attending services are driving long distances and are dependant on this charging service.

Matt Britton stated that due to the low funds currently generated from the EV charging station that creating a revolving fund is not appropriate at this time. Lynne Bonner provided further context that a QR code will be placed at the charging port as an alternative means to pay for its use. Rev. Melora also asked Matt Britton to connect with Anna Issacs to ensure that the EV charging station is an option for donation on FUCV's website. The board agreed that the revenue generated from the EV charging station will be monitored over the next year and if sufficient revenue is generated then a separate fund may be considered.

**Action: Lynne Bonner will inform Jim Jordan on the decisions of the board regarding the film and the additional fund. Matt Britton will connect with Anna Issacs to ensure donation can be attributed to EV charging station usage.**

#### 7.7. Discussion on agenda format (if there is time) – Adriane Matheson-Smith

Adriane Matheson-Smith brought up structure and format of board meetings. The board discussed what works well and what can use improvement. All were in favour of guests' items being first in the agenda so they do not need to be present for the full meeting. Lynne Bonner suggested adding times for the different items to ensure the schedule is on track and to assist in the Time Keeper's role.

Further discussion was had concerning the fall board retreat and who will put together the agenda.

Action: Adriane Matheson-Smith to create a first draft of the board retreat agenda with all ideas the board had in it. Matt Britton, Audrey Taylor, and Rev. Shana will then go through the agenda and determine what items to discuss during the board retreat on October 26.

**8. Membership Changes – Adriane Matheson-Smith**

12 months (Aug1-Aug1) - 57 newcomer forms, 29 new members/friends

last month (Jun1-Jul1) 1 newcomer forms (YA=young adult 19-35, MA=middle adult 35-65, E=elder 80+)

New Members (4): Mark van Hoek (MA), attends with adult child Lily (Adriane Matheson-Smith to Contact); Joseph Catalano - spouse of visitor Linda Grimaldi, former Colorado UUs (Matt Britton to Contact); John Lancaster - partner of Pat McMahan returning from SSI (Barry Wiebe to contact); Cora Bilsker - attends with young daughter Scarlett, grew up UU in Calgary (Lynne Bonner to Contact)

Deceased Members (4): Dee Heston June 7; Laura Doyle June 30; Fran Pardee July 20; Penny Furnes July 21

Deceased Supporters (2): Elizabeth Hagmeier July 13; Mohammad Banaee

Resigned Members (1): Derek Trogi

Resigned Supporters (2): Cherry Lynn Brown; Catherine Ramsay

Resigned Supporter to become Visitor/Contact (2): John Bollen; Kathleen Sutherland

Deemed Resigned Supporter (due to non-response after 2 contact efforts) (11): Marcy Calberry; Virginia Daniel; Bob de Wolff; Ann Gower; Faye Mogensen; Volker Rademacher; Jesse Reid-Soule; Thea Revoy; Linda Stanton; Jon Taylor; and Melissa Wallace.

**9. Announcements**

9.1. Next Board Meeting September 11, 2024

**10. Questions from FUCV Members**

**11. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.

**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
August 11, 2024	Barry Wiebe
August 18, 2024	Adriane Matheson-Smith (for Al Hoffman)

August 25, 2024	Jim Willis
September 1, 2024	Katherine Maas
September 8, 2024	Al Hoffman (for Adriane Matheson-Smith)
September 15, 2024	Lynne Bonner
September 22, 2024	Karen Sharlow
September 29, 2024	Mariko Matsumoto
October 6, 2021	Barry Wiebe
October 13, 2024	Al Hoffman
October 20, 2024	Jim Willis
October 27, 2024	Adriane Matheson-Smith
November 3, 2024	Katherine Maas
November 10, 2024	Lynne Bonner
November 17, 2024	Karen Sharlow
November 24, 2024	Mariko Matsumoto