



FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING  
6:30 PM, October 17, 2023

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jonah Berquist, Linda Enger, Lori Lai, Lucy Smith, Megan Lehmer, Sam King, Galen Workman, Diane Allen and Liz Strand.

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Vanessa Southern, Laura Shennum (Rev Laura), Laura Ludwig (Dir Laura)

**GUEST:** Howard Oringer

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:37 with quorum

**OPENING WORDS:** from Iris Murdoch by Lucy

**PROCESS OBSERVER:** Lucy

**CHECK IN:**

**FEEDBACK FROM BOARD MEMBERS AND CONGREGATION OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS BOARD:**

**AGENDA REVIEW:** Moved and seconded to approve

**REPORTS:**

**Investment Committee Report:** Howard referred the group to his report which had been linked to the agenda. He gave a brief history of the movement of UUSF funds from KCM/Schwab to the UU Common Endowment Fund in February of 2021. He said our UU values were better represented by the UUCEF. He said we've had a couple of weak years especially during the Covid pandemic so that we are not generating enough interest to match the amount we need to take out for our budgeting purposes. We need to decide what to do about it. Discussion ensued. The Investment Committee recommends that we wait another year and see if the returns keep going up like they have recently. Jonah asked if we can ask the people at CEF what they think is

going on. Dir Laura agreed to do that and noted that they have probably made some adjustments in their own investments.

Lori asked if we would change the draw from the fund or keep it at 5.5%. Jonah suggested we hold off on that until we do the budget and hear back from Howard and Dir Laura once they speak with CEF.

**Finance and Operations:** Dir Laura referred to her written report and asked for any questions. Linda asked if it is a problem that the society is on a fiscal year basis and Hinckley is on a calendar year basis as far as getting grants from Hinckley to cover budget shortfalls. Dir Laura said it was not a problem. Lori asked if there had been any vandalism recently. Dir Laura noted there was one window broken in early September. Rev Laura said the RE kids have made some butterflies to be put up on the glass doors on the front steps. Dir Laura added an update that Leland Jones, our sexton, is still in rehab for a stroke at City View on Pine St. His speech is getting better and he likes to get cards and phone calls. She noted that Leland's elder brother passed away in the last year. She also noted that Matias is now a full time UUSF employee.

**Treasurer:** Lori referred to her written report and added that due to lower returns on investments and slow growing membership numbers, we will need to pay close attention to the 2025 budget process.

**Minister of Congregational Life:** Rev Laura referred to her linked report and highlighted the following: Interviewing is ensuing for the Membership/Young Adult Coordinator. She has asked Sam and Jordan Ong, who is on the membership committee, to write a report about the hiring process and how we have done our due diligence in trying to get a DEI person for the position. The person might start in December.

It was noted that Vanessa had asked if anyone is available to brainstorm with her as to what support would be needed in the church while she is on sabbatical. Galen and Linda volunteered.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Board went into Executive Session to discuss the Montessori situation.

**Retreat Follow-up:** We need to update the list of liaisons among the trustees who are assigned to the various groups and committees in the society. The existing document will be circulated and trustees may choose which groups they wish to liaise with.

**Schedule time for Strategic Plan mini-retreat:** We agreed on a follow-up retreat on Nov 11, 2023 from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Liz will get a room for us.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Auction Recap (Lite):** Lori summarized as follows:

199 Tickets purchased:	\$7,200
Silent and live auction:	24,000
Fund a Need:	26,900

Raffle and Tiki Bar

1,100

Lori mentioned that it was very financially successful – almost \$60,000 gross raised. But the main thing she said was that people enjoyed themselves– had nice food, listened to music, had mai tais, there was dancing, etc. Rev Laura noted that the kids and families were really well incorporated with activities, a family raffle, video games, shave ice, etc. and they stayed for the whole event. Lori said that around 60 people volunteered to help on the event with 20 or 30 of them in the kitchen alone. And Chris Magnani was a professional chef at one time and Stacey the caterer did a great job.

**November and December Board Meeting Dates:** We will move the dates up one week in these two months to avoid being so close to the holidays. We will meet on Nov 14, 2023 and Dec 12, 2023. Liz will get rooms for those new dates. The Exec Team meetings will be moved up one week also to Nov 7th and Dec 6th.

**GOOD AND WELFARE:** Thank you cards to the Auction committee and crew: Lori Lai, Cheryl Deaner, Gino Fortunato, Gregory Stevens, Stacey Coyle, Chris Magnani, Gary Lorentzen, Peer Lorentzen, Laura Meyer, Laura Ludwig and Laura Shennum. Others to Elena Perez, Santana McBride and Rev Laura. Cheryl Deaner will write something up for the Flame to celebrate the success of the event.

**PROCESS OBSERVATION SUMMARY:** Lucy

**CLOSING WORDS:** from Iris Murdoch by Lucy

**ADJOURNMENT:** 8:49pm.