

**Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley Board of Trustees Meeting  
Wednesday, August 4, 2021**

**Meeting Conducted via Zoom Video Conference**

**Minutes – Draft**

**ATTENDEES**

Voting members: Bill Brown, Randall Hudson, Elaine Miller, Beth Pollard, David Roberts, Ariel Smith-Iyer, Cordell Sloan, Helen Tinsley-Jones

Absent: Kerry Simpson

Ex officio members: Rev. Michelle Collins, Tess O’Riva (Executive Director), Ann Harlow (Secretary)

Guests from Widening the Circle of Concern Task Force: Victoria Bowen, Suzette Anderson-Duggan, Susan Blair, Lynne Henderson, Lonnie Moseley, Melissa Rosales, Albert Kueffner

Other visitors included: Cynthia Asprodites, Karen Elliott, Terry Stokes and Ann Riley, Luana Pohlman, David Lingenfelter, Julia Rogers, Evelie Delfino Sâles Posch, Michael DeWitt, David Rosales, Judy Sam, Helen Toy, Grace Ulp, Sheldon Jones, Don Klose, Ray Westergard, Bob Adams, Lenore Ralston, Barbara & Patrick Cullinane, Christina Creveling

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by Beth Pollard, president, at 7:03 p.m. Elaine did the chalice lighting and reading, we did check-ins, Ariel read the Board covenant, and Helen read the land acknowledgment.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**A motion for the following (M Helen/S Bill) passed unanimously:**

- Approve agenda
- Approve July 7, 2021 Board Meeting minutes
- Accept monthly financial statements
- Accept monthly Executive Director report

**LISTENING**

**Announcements:**

- Michelle announced we will have a ministerial intern, Ken Marino, starting in September.
- Tess announced that facilities staff member Yao will retire at the end of September.

**Report from Board listening presence:** Elaine said she’d had a call from Dorothy Herzberg reporting a member’s illness.

**Congregants who wish to speak to the Board:** Evelie said she needed to leave early but would like to hear what the Task Force has to say; Beth said she’ll have another opportunity next month. Don Klose announced that he’d had a positive conversation with Freestone neighbor Laurel, who volunteered her property as an emergency evacuation route.

## **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

### **Briefing from the Widening the Circle of Concern Task Force**

Beth thanked all members of the task force (including those listed above plus Board members Cordell, Elaine and Helen) and asked Helen to lead the presentation, a “preview” or “warm-up” for the September meeting. Each introduced themselves, mentioned what other groups at UUCB they are involved in, and what impact their work on the task force has had on them. Helen described the Social Justice presentation at General Assembly, “Periwinkles and More.” Victoria summarized the process the task force went through, establishing focus areas (Youth, Connections, Education for Liberation, Accountability, Living Our Values, Resources, Arts & Culture, Worship), meeting biweekly, creating a safe place for discomfort, not rushing, accumulating Google docs, making a few recommendations along the way, and drafting the final report.

Comments and questions:

Some “how-to” handouts and sessions would be useful

Board should do some prioritizing among recommendations

Appreciation, looking forward to actualizing

How can the rest of the congregation “catch up”? “Join in wherever you are and we’ll figure it out together.”

Encourage all to read the UUA report, absorb, discuss in small groups

Report will suggest some starting places for a process

Appreciation for leadership by Helen and Victoria

They started out thinking it would only take a couple of months to read and discuss the report, but it took 24 meetings

It was painful at times and being held with empathy and compassion was healing—how to replicate throughout the congregation?

They identified specific passages individually to read aloud and discuss

“Stories in Living Color” program of Storytellers Association of California

Thanks for healthy model of a task force

Thanks for those who attended, and feel free to get in touch with task force via Helen

Report will go to Board August 25 in preparation for September 1 meeting

## **BOARD COMMITTEE/TASK FORCE/LIAISON REPORTS**

Dave (Finance Committee) reported that he is still working with Tess on looking for a better, more efficient accounting system. UUCB continues on a positive trend financially. The job of the Treasurer should become much more manageable.

Randall praised the Buildings & Grounds Committee and what Tess and Antonio have been doing to improve facilities. He has also been part of the group implementing the new church management database, which should be a big improvement.

Bill attended a Freestone Committee meeting and said Tess’s report covers the essentials but he may have info to relay next month.

Dave has sat in on both Buildings & Grounds and Freestone meetings and says incredible jobs are being done. People are really stepping up to better understand and care for our physical resources.

### **OUTGOING COMMENTS**

Beth expressed much appreciation again to the Widening the Circle of Concern Task Force for their many months of work.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Beth said the adjournment would be in memory of Phillip Linzie, with some comments from Cordell about the importance of being aware of mental health issues. Lonnie noted the importance of checking in with people who haven't been coming. Beth adjourned the meeting at 8:46.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Harlow, Secretary

### **UPCOMING EVENTS AND BOARD MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES**

September Beacon article (due August 15): Beth

September Listening Presence: Cordell

Next Board meeting: September 1, 7 p.m.

In-person worship: September 12, 11 a.m.