

**Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley Board of Trustees Meeting  
Wednesday, July 6, 2022**

**Meeting Conducted via Zoom Video Conference**

**Minutes – Approved**

**ATTENDEES**

Voting members: Michael Armstrong, Bill Brown, Pier Ho, Randall Hudson, Beth Pollard, David Roberts, Cordell Sloan, Helen Tinsley-Jones

Absent: Elaine Miller

Ex officio members: Selene Fabiano (Secretary), Lenore Ralston (Treasurer)

Visitors: Lynn Hammond, Ann Harlow, Greg Lemieux, Larry Nagel, Sandy Portillo-Robbins, Melissa Rosales, Lorraine Schnurr, Marta Tobey

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by Beth Pollard, president, at 7:01p.m. Helen did the chalice lighting and reading, Pier read the Board covenant, Lenore read the land acknowledgement, and Beth read the Widening the Circle Vision Statement.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**A motion for the following (M Pier\_/S\_Helen\_) passed unanimously:**

- Approve agenda
- Approve Board Meeting minutes of June 1, 2022
- Receive with gratitude a summary of UUA General Assembly 2022 prepared by Melissa Rosales
- Accept Monthly Treasurer's Report

**INFORMATION ITEM**

Beth thanked Melissa for her fabulous summary of GA 2022

**LISTENING**

**Announcements:** Beth asked board members to visit Freestone before September. The Freestone Retreat Committee is hosting visits to the church's Freestone property other Saturday this summer (July 9<sup>th</sup>, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, Aug 6<sup>th</sup>, Aug 20<sup>th</sup>). A light lunch will be served. Dave Wemmer is the contact person.

**Report from Board listening presence: None**

**Congregants who wish to speak to the Board: None**

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

**Update and Recommendation from the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC).**

Greg Lemieux, Sandy Portillo-Jones, and Lorraine Schnurr represented the MSC.

Greg reported the following work done by the committee thus far:

- Informational meeting with Christine Purcell, UUA Transitions Program Manager
- QA session with Rev Michelle
- Attended the UUA Ministerial Search All Day Training on June 18 ( 160 people from US and Canada were there)
- Read early chapters of MSC Handbook

In response to the Board's request for the MSC to make a recommendation re type of ministry search (Settled UU, Contract UU, or Contract Non-UU), Greg reported that the MSC has determined the following:

1. They don't have enough information to do that yet.
2. They need to begin the search process for a settled minister to help clarify what the congregation needs.
3. Going through the search process for a settled minister does not preclude them from ultimately deciding on another type of minister; they can pivot at any time.

Greg shared the UUA's recommended timeline for a settled minister search:

- MSC Retreat: July/August
- Gather input from congregation: September-Oct\*\*\*
- "Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop\*\*\*\*": Nov 5
- Consolidate Info/Work on the Website November
- Formally Initiate Search: Dec 1

\*\*\* MSC wants to begin engaging the congregation informally in July & August. (e.g. Greg had some good conversations at the July 4<sup>th</sup> get-together) Formally in Sept-Oct via survey and cottage meetings (AKA focus groups)

\*\*\*\* Whole congregation workshop to encourage us to go beyond our biases re what a minister should look like.

Based on the UUA's timeline and recommendation, the MSC asked the Board's permission to do the following 3 things:

- a. Defer the recommendation to the Board on the type of ministry UUCB will seek
- b. Approval for the MSC's formal engagement in the Settled Minister search process. This:
  - Allows MSC to request a retreat date
  - Provides MSC with UUA support for both settled and contract minister exploration
  - The MSC is waiting for a list of congregations who have a contract minister from the UUA. (Asked Christine Purcell to provide this to UUCB, so MSC can engage with these congregations re what these different types of ministry look like.)Transitions Office
- c. Have the Board reflect on and discuss the Search Committee's role in the event a contract ministry is recommended. If a decision is made to go ahead with a contract minister, MSC would not necessarily need to be part of this, although they're assuming the Board would probably want their help with this.

### Discussion

Some questions were raised and the following information was shared:

1. Costs associated with the MSC Retreat: Will need to pay for a facilitator (cost for that is not yet known). Retreat could be do virtually, in-person, or hybrid.
2. Ways the MSC will engage the congregation include the MSC's going to established groups (e.g. choir, chalice circles, social justice), as well as creating opportunities for other church members to provide their input regarding the congregation's needs vis a vis a new minister.
3. A Developmental minister has not yet been ruled out. The MSC will be listening for particular issues that come up in conversations with the congregation that suggest the need/wish for a developmental minister.
4. Engaging with UUA doesn't prevent the MSC from other kinds of searches (e.g. for a non-UUA contract minister).

Beth suggested we break the MSC's recommendations into 2 separate actions.

1. Dave motioned that the MSC's engagement in the UUA ministerial search process be conducted in parallel with other aspects of the search process, as a necessary and non-exclusive process. Pier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
2. The Board agreed to reflect on and discuss the Search Committee's role in the event a contract ministry is recommended.

Board members affirmed that they would want the MSC to be involved in decisions regarding a contract minister. Board and committee members noted that specific role of the Search Committee in selecting a contract minister can be decided later.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

- a. Adjourn in memory of Kevin Campbell: Lenore led us in this adjournment.

b. Adjourn to Executive Session Board Retreat

Respectfully submitted,

Selene Fabiano, Secretary

**UPCOMING EVENTS AND BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES**

July Listening Presence: Cordell

August Listening Presence: Helen

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday August 3rd