



Meeting Notes
First Universalist Church Board
Sept. 9, 2019 - 6:00 pm

Opening:

- Light the Chalice, Establish Quorum (all present except for N. Dix)
- Reading

Consent Agenda

- Minutes from previous meeting (revised sent 9/11/19, to be approved next month)

Discussion Areas: *(items in italics indicate action items, questions or areas TBD.)*

1. Harvest Search Fundraiser

Question: What remains to be done?

Discussion: **Food and drink:** SW to communicate with host committees re what to bring (can also include reminder to have OUR commitments in by Sunday the 22nd).

Music: only background/Pandora type. **Commitment cards:** Make (SW). **Presentation:**

Develop words (SW, to coord with member of Search). **Child care:** JL or JC to set up? **Poster:** SW. **Skit** this Sunday: SW and AC. **More P/R:** implement Channels etc per MT/SW plan.

2. Leadership Retreat & Beyond Categorical Thinking (BCT) Course

Question: What remains to be done?

Discussion: Keith Kron cannot do BCT on Saturday, Nov. 2. Rev Frieda and JL or Search Committee (?) to contact him re alternative date of Saturday Oct. 26th, in the afternoon after the VNS yard sale. Consider using sanctuary space. Invite everyone then follow up with personal calls and/or emails to all committee and council members. Possibly 3-5 pm, then a social break (*tea, cookies, or wine&cheese?*) then KK to meet with Search team.

We will then hold the Leadership Retreat in the afternoon of the 2nd as originally planned, focusing on "Spiritual Leadership" and what that means at First Universalist.

CONTENT of RETREAT: JL and MT to review their Spir. L'p notes, coord with Leadership Development Committee, especially Andrew Tonks who has professional experience in this area. (*Will Andrew be in town?... If not, could he help develop plan anyway?*) Ideas include what L'p is and isn't, examples of L'p in our own experience. *Breakout small group discussions and come back to whole group.*

3. Healing Process:

Question 1: Are we ready to sign our letter to the UUA?

Discussion: SW has revised the letter and distributed. To be signed and sent 9/15/19. SW will provide notice of the letter to Search (Steve) and Transition Team (Nancy Read) for their info. Electronic copies will NOT be shared. Board members will delete old copies. One paper copy will be kept in the minister's files in case of contact from ministerial candidates, and one electronic copy will be kept in the Clerk's files.

Spin-off /Question 1A: Are we ready to proceed with Search and Call this year? Board consensus is that we are on track with an ongoing (unfinished) healing process. More Healing Circles and outreach to happen over the course of this year. New settled minister will bring a new phase in healing, and will work with us on Congregational Covenant and building trust. Our hearts are willing to heal.

Question 2: Do we need a financial audit?

Discussion: SW's husband Drew Cheney and congregant Ben Lombard have offered to meet with Stewardship Committee (and others who may be interested in topic) in open circle format, to recommend best practices for transparency and safety. Example: minister does not

have church credit card, but submits expenses for reimbursement. MT and JC to discuss with Stewardship Committee re. timing. *November?*

Question 3: Code of Ethics for future ministers.

Discussion: Board to look at examples of such, and discuss.

4. When bad things happen in our space or greater world

Question: What role should First Universalist play when 'bad things happen'?

Discussion: We are considering creating a Response Team vs. assigning to a specific committee. Cong. Conn will discuss at 9/17 meeting and could possibly host an after-worship Brown Bag Lunch (inviting FIA, WC and CC as well as any people interested, perhaps noting those who checked off such events in CC survey last March) for conversation about various questions:

- what events warrant a response? (Political, violent harm, environmental, community...)
- what responses are possible? (e.g. bell ringing, march, vigil, prayer circle, signs, letters to editor...)
- how and when we should coordinate with other UU or area faith communities?
- Board noted that this is a great question for the Search Team to discuss with candidates. SW will provide these notes directly to Steve T.
- Board also noted that we would like to re-institute practice of special emails in the event of a congregant birth or death.

Next meetings:

Exec – Sunday Oct. 6 @ Noon

Board – Monday, Oct. 14 @ 6 PM

Reflections and Closing