



**Meeting Notes
First Universalist Church Board
June 8, 2020**

Opening:

- Light the Chalice, Establish Quorum
- Meditation: Rev. Frieda read from Anim Cara, by John O'Donohue

Consent Agenda: please read attachments

- Notes from previous meeting - APPROVED
- Treasurer and Stewardship materials attached
- President's Report
- Minister's Report – ND request for next month's report.

Agenda Discussion Areas:

1. Black Lives Matter, other FIA projects

Question: What should First Universalist do in response and relationship to murder of George Floyd and subsequent riots/protests/government action?

Discussion:

Andrew: Rather than getting into details, propose that group studying antiracism would be a task force to FIA. Will come back to Board with specific recommendation for structure. AT willing to convene the 10 students to have a zoom call to discuss Mission and composition. Moderator and 4-6 members. Scribe. Volunteer coordinator. Task leaders for each thing: education, media and communications, policy and action initiatives.

Marge: Pete and Marge talked to Chief Gallant re banner. All good with him. Also spoken with YCHI and residents of 95 Main. All supportive.

Joe: Had just graduated from college when MLK was shot. The protests petered out. How do we best offer our energies for outcome? Thinking long term. Need to do the right thing that we don't put a lot of energy towards something without results.

Sarah: we should let the Task Force work on a plan that offers many opportunities for engagement in anti-racist

Stew: How will local youth be involved? On Task Force and in projects...

Nancy: anti-racism consciousness education should include children, youth and adults in our congregation

Jenn: education is important – can we broaden the community? Can First U take the lead in the community?

Andrew: changing minds doesn't work, it's changing policies

Joanna: UUtheVote may be related work

Joe: requests update reports from Task Force on a monthly basis

VOTE TO CREATE TASK FORCE: UNANIMOUS

2. Staying Connected

Question: How can the friends and members of First Universalist stay connected through the social distancing requirements of the pandemic? Strong interest.

Discussion: Rev. Frieda making another round of **calls**, small 'pod' **meetings**, different **coffee hour** format or times.

Sarah re CC: will write to people to ask them if they would like to be in a group.

Meeting in person outdoors? Family picnic, Vespers outdoors?

Marge re GA: we should get our whole congregation motivated and excited to participate in GA. The programming: 12 on anti-racism, 7 on youth, 4 on indigenous and colonialism. When Red Flags Don't WORK.

Jenn: suggests Mini-videos. Joe: ask Rev. Hillary?

Frieda: she doesn't work for you yet. But if she is ok with it we would appreciate the connection.

Joanna will ask. (UPDATE: Hillary will write or provide video for next week's Channels)

Everyone who is in leadership could attend leadership workshops. Worship and RE and FIA.

DECISION: Sarah and Marge will create promotion mat'l for channels and e-blasts. Follow up by committee leadership.

Worship Council and Rev. Frieda will discuss ongoing worship format for July.

SUGGESTION: WC organize "UU Roadtrip" to live services all over the country... With Coffee Hour after. Or late afternoon gathering.

3. Pathway to Re-opening

Question: How can we re-open, in what ways, and how can we make sure that our congregation's needs are being met in safe inclusive ways?

Discussion:

Jen: do we also survey the congregation on what kind of electronic worship works for you?

Some things should have Hillary's input.

Can we do some of the smaller rentals, and VNS?

DECISION: Board will create ongoing task force – invite congregation? Joanna and Marge will write invitation.

4. EXTRA ITEM: ACCESSIBILITY

Question: How is our building inaccessible and what are the best ways we could improve it?

Discussion: Joanna will respond to Mariana and ask for more input. We will put all ideas on a capital improvements list, get order-of-magnitude cost estimates, and we can also look into funding possibilities.

5. Gratitude Moment

Question: to whom does the Board need to send gratitude?

Discussion: ND will write a letter to Andrew T to thank him for facilitating the reading group and organizing a Task Force.

Items for July and August meetings:

- InGathering, picnic?
- Leadership retreat
- Congregational Safety.
- ANNUAL MEETING (9/27/20),
 - Annual Reports
 - Approving a budget.
- Fellowship Process for HCG
- Committee on Ministry
- Live Worship – technologies, opps and goals
- Fall Fundraiser (with updated financial forecast)

Coming up:

GA! – ALL BOARD MEMBERS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND! Choose your lane. And if you can't do any of the courses, can you attend the Sunday morning worship?

Exec Meeting -- Monday July 6, 6 pm?

Board Meeting – Monday July 13, 6 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87579753350>

Annual Meeting – 9/27- save the date.