

# East Shore Unitarian Church

## Board of Trustees

### March 22, 2023

### Minutes

#### Our East Shore Unitarian Church Board Covenant

We covenant to hold the Eight Principles of Unitarian Universalism, the Mission of ESUC, and the ESUC Right Relations Covenant as the touchstones for all actions and decisions we make as a Board. We recognize that how we hold and treat each other, and the congregation is the spiritual ground from which grow the actions and decisions that support the health and welfare of the church now and in the future. We aspire to lead by example, filled with good will for all present and the full congregation, and calling forth the best in all congregants and empowering their strengths and contributions. We pledge to support the entire congregation by contributing our best selves and our best gifts in trust for future generations.

Board Members Present: Signe Lalish-Menagh, David Langrock, Evelyn Smith, Louise Wilkinson, Geri Kennedy, Martin Cox, Nicole Duff, Rebecca Chatfield and Rev. Dr. Maria Cristina Vlassidis, and Maury Edwards.

Board Members absent: none

Visitors present: Trish Hunter and Claudia Hirschey and Grace Colten.

#### Meeting commenced at 4:03 pm PDT

Maury Edwards gave us an opening reading by Theresa I. Soto, *We Hold Hope Close*.

The Board in unison recited the East Shore Land Acknowledgment and the Mission Statement.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

- Approve the February BOT minutes
- Move to establish a minister reserve fund, to be funded through annual additions from the operating fund and designated donations, beginning 1/1/2024.
- Move to establish a building reserve fund to be funded through annual additions from the operating fund and designated donations beginning 1/1/24 and to approve the Building Fund Mission Statement.

- Move in accordance with Amendment Board Policy, to amend Section 2.11, #9, 1,2&3 as follows: 2.11 #9.1 delete; 2.11#9.2 amend to require 2 authorized signers on all checks \$5,000 or over; 2.11 #9.3 delete.
- Approve New board meeting date and time for March 22<sup>nd</sup> 4-6pm, the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of April and May 2023 from 4-6pm.
- Move that Policy and Governance be appointed to create a team to work with the President to Organize the Congregational Meeting for June 11, 2023.

Maury moved to approve the Consent Agenda as written. Louise seconded. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously,

## WHITE SUPREMACY SHARING

Louise read the article, *Seven Habits of Gen Z That Your Church Might Be Ignoring*, to us and we went to breakout rooms to discuss. Once the group regathered, The Reverenda and Maury gave reflections.

## REGULAR BUSINESS

- 1) Martin presented the product he and Grace had worked on as an “Open Question” initiative created for Board approval.

How can we best promote healing and rebuild trust throughout East Shore? - healing of staff, people of color, families, those that left ESUC, & shared ministry.

We decided to revisit after everyone had a chance to consider the content.

- 2) Grace presented her proposal for revising Article V dealing with:

- a) No financial contribution will be required to be a member;
- b) Age of membership will be lowered to 14;
- c) Age to be a member of the Board of Trustees will be lowered to sixteen years;
- d) Age to be an officer of the Board of Trustees will be lowered to eighteen years;
- e) A dealing with destructive behavior by a member process;
- f) Records retention and access.

(Note: full text is in the Board Packet for this meeting).

Discussion: Nicole noted there will still be pledge drives and other fund raisers. Grace noted if the Board approved this measure, the Congregational vote would happen next; and, then the Board could move on policy decisions. Martin said it felt as if the initial pledge obligation was being pulled out and Eighth Principle/UUA Article II was replacing it. He was reassured that whichever way the Article II vote went this would work.

Martin moved to approve the revisions to Article V of the East Shore bylaws for presentation to the Congregation at the Congregational Meeting in May.

The vote was unanimous in approval.

## **REVIEW OF COVENANTS**

Evelyn and Rebecca made excellent and heartfelt reflections on one covenant each.

## **PROCESS OBSERVER REPORT**

Rebecca reported her observations of process.

## **CLOSING READING AND ADJOURNMENT**

Signe had a closing reading for us. We adjourned at 5:32 pm PDT

Minutes compiled by Maury Edwards  
Secretary, Board of Trustees  
East Shore Unitarian Church  
Bellevue, WA  
March 22, 2023