

East Shore Unitarian Church

Board of Trustees

May 23, 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 umbrella for our own covenant and guidelines. 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 those present and all members of the community. We commit to empowering all congregants, calling on their strengths and contributions for the greater good. We hold ourselves accountable to practicing this living covenant and the following guidelines, changing them when called to, and should we break this promise, we agree to engage with Right Relations to address repair.

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

Board Members absent: Evelyn Smith

Visitors present: Grace Colton.

Meeting commenced at 7:04 pm PDT

Geri Kennedy gave us an opening reading from *The Little Prince* and lit the chalice.

We had a brief check-in.

The Rev. Dr. Maria Cristina read the land acknowledgment.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approve: Martin Cox, David Langrock, Nicole Duff and Signe Lalish as Board Retreat Working Group to complete planning for our facilitator, arrange the agenda, any speakers and notify the Board prior to the July Board meeting if not sooner.
- Approve all of the following Board meetings for the 2023-2024 year.

All the Board of Trustees meetings run from 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM PT.

All dates below are the Fourth Thursday of the month except November 16 (to avoid Thanksgiving) and December 21 (to avoid staff winter break):

- June 22, 2023
 - July 27, 2023
 - August 24, 2023
 - September 28, 2023
 - October 26, 2023
 - November 16, 2023 – avoids Thanksgiving Day.
 - December 21, 2023 – avoids staff winter break.
 - January 25, 2024
 - February 22, 2024
 - March 28, 2024
 - April 25, 2024
 - May 23, 2024
- Approve the Endowment Fund Purpose and Policy Statement
 - Approve April 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
 - Approve sending email notice of the June 11th Congregational Meeting to the approximately 270 households that prefer email; and, sending a hard copy through the mail to the approximately 70 households that prefer that method.

Maury Edwards moved to approve the Consent Agenda as written. Martin Cox seconded.

The motion passed unanimously,

BUDGET FOR DELEGATE TO GA REQUESTING ASSISTANCE

Discussion led by Louise and Nicole. The Eighth Principle Ministry Committee has requested assistance for a General Assembly East Shore delegate wanting to personally attend in Pittsburg, PA. That committee volunteered to pay out of its own budget up to \$500.00 if the Board did not approve.

It was decided to allow the Eighth Principle Committee to pay \$500.00 from its budget as we are experiencing a dramatic decrease in income and there will be a need to pay for a facilitator for the Board retreat.

Geri made a note to investigate full participation scholarships for next year's GA which will be Zoom only.

There was no motion presented.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES TO ARTICLE XI, SECTION G

Grace Colton led a discussion of changes proposed by our Policy and Governance Committee that more accurately reflect what we do. Here is the chart explaining those changes:

Bylaw Change Proposal for Article XI Section G Budget and Finances for Board

Original ByLaw (wording to be changed underlined)	Proposed ByLaw Revisions (Delete = crossout; Addition = italics)
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ARTICLE XI. OFFICERS AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES	ARTICLE XI. OFFICERS AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SECTION A. COMPOSITION	No Change
SECTION B. RESPONSIBILITIES	No Change
SECTION C. RESIGNATION AND REMOVAL	No Change
SECTION D. MEETINGS	No Change
SECTION E. QUORUM	No Change
SECTION F. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	No Change

SECTION G: BUDGET AND FINANCES

The Board of Trustees shall have general charge of the finances of the church and shall maintain accountability for the expenditure of all funds. The Board shall authorize and submit for approval at the Annual Congregational Business Meeting a budget for the ensuing year. The Board of Trustees may, in its administration, vary the amounts to be expended under individual headings of the budget, but may not exceed the total amount of the approved expense budget or the anticipated income, whichever is greater, without approval of the congregation. The Board shall establish and enforce a policy to assure regular periodic review of financial transactions and contributions to be sure that all such transactions are proper and documented appropriately and that adequate internal control procedures are in place. (2016)

SECTION G: BUDGET AND FINANCES

The Board of Trustees *will* have general charge of the finances of the church and *will* maintain accountability for the expenditure of all funds. The Board *will cause to be prepared, and then* authorize and submit for approval at the Annual Congregational Business Meeting, a budget for the ensuing year.

The budget will be based on anticipated availability of funds and relative priority and importance of Church programs and financial needs. After the adoption of the budget, the Board in office during the fiscal year covered by the budget will have the responsibility of seeing that the budget is adjusted to conform as nearly as possible to the funds actually received.

The Board will establish and enforce collaborative methods in its policies for determining relative budget priorities. These priorities will reflect ESUC's values and covenants.

The Board *will* establish and enforce *policies* to assure regular periodic review of financial transactions and contributions to be sure that all such transactions are proper and documented appropriately and that adequate internal control procedures are in place.

Rationale: Reflects current practice more accurately.

SECTION H. OPEN MEETINGS

No Change

There was a reticence to change the congregationally approved budget as written in the changes. It was decided to request the Policy and Governance Committee to ask for help from the Finance Committee for language and re-present the changes.

There was no motion presented.

WHITE SUPREMACY SHARING

Louise presented the Board an overview of our IDI process and reasons why the IDI was so important. The spread of our results across the IDI spectrum was reviewed. We then went into pairs to discuss what we perceived to be the key intercultural development challenges for our congregation:

- What are the learning edges for this group?
- How do we support each other?
- What commitments and practices can we honor going forward

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Louise and Maury were thanked for their service this last Board year as this is their last Board meeting as members of the Board.

PROCESS OBSERVER REPORT

Martin led a discussion of any repair needed. The discussion about GA delegate scholarships was revisited and repair was made.

CLOSING READING AND ADJOURNMENT

Louise had a closing reading for us.

We adjourned at 8:13 pm PDT

Minutes compiled by Maury Edwards
Acting Secretary, Board of Trustees
East Shore Unitarian Church
Bellevue, WA
May 23, 2023