

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

September 1st, 2020 on Zoom due to Covid-19

September [VOLUNTEERS](#) - READING - *Karen*; BLOG - *Ryan*

In attendance: Board members Clyde Hardin, Vice President; Laurel Amabile, Clerk; Louisa Anderson; Michael Beech; Cecil Bennett; Karen Dill; Julie Stoffels; Ryan Williams, President; and Rev. Mark Ward, ex officio. Absent: Judy Harper.

OUR OPEN AND WELCOMING CONGREGATION CONNECTS HEARTS, CHALLENGES MINDS, AND NURTURES SPIRITS, WHILE SERVING AND TRANSFORMING OUR COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD.

GREETINGS AND CHECK-IN'S 6:00-6:10 PM

OPENING WORDS AND CHALICE LIGHTING - *Karen*

BUSINESS 6:15 - 6:40

- **WHAT'S HAPPENING - *Mark***

In addition to Mark's written monthly report, he opened up the space for comments and questions. There were conversations about the chart Mark sent out and the metrics that reflect our current mode of participation during COVID. For example, It is hard to know how family participation in the Faith Development program will go, because of the amount of screen time families are managing with kids in virtual school settings.

Financial/Budget Review--Mark reports that finances are staying steady. Some areas are under budget because of the adaptations that save money--such as holding virtual worship services, meetings, and other programs. Some changes in this year's budget are bound to occur based on how things go over the course of the year.

- **LIMITATIONS - *Mark*** (see [Mark's September Reports](#) for detail)

RACIAL JUSTICE CALL AND RESPONSE GROUP DISCUSSION: - *Clyde*

- **Complete Group Discussion facilitated by Clyde**

Our racial justice programs and efforts will engage our congregation in new ways, given the renewed discourse and action in the national scope, as well as local. We are now in a position to get involved in a more fulfilling way, in light of current events that highlight racial justice.

We discussed the importance of UU Congregation of Asheville making a public statement in support of racial justice, given the current relevance locally and in the United States.

It is easier to think about race and make statements, but we acknowledge this must be backed up by action that supports our UU values in the public arena and the interests of our congregation. We do not necessarily need to take the lead in the community on issues of racial justice, but we can support the efforts of those individuals within the congregation.

We can create openings for care and dialogue within the congregation of those who are concerned or are active in the work of racial justice in the wider community. We can engage the conversation and listen. We can engage those who are most involved and committed to the causes of racial justice and breaking down white supremacy.

There is some growing frustration expressed about the length of time it is taking to studying this issue, while there are racial justice issues arising that may prompt more timely response from UUCA and its leadership.

- **Determine Next Steps (Action Steps)**

- 1) The Board will articulate a simple, straightforward statement naming racial justice as a priority for our UUCA Board. Essentially this is a call to action.
- 2) The Board will address the need for education and community outreach through a committee to be formed and charged with guiding the process.
- 3) This would concurrently involve the Board in an internal process of dialogue and exploration of the issues, assessing the state of our UUCA system and need for relevant systemic changes.
- 4) Reach out and talk with those in the congregation who are involved in racial justice work and glean their ideas and learn from their experience.
- 5) Through this process, we can elicit ideas and input for all of these steps--the mechanism for this is yet to be determined.
- 6) Compile a list of links and resources that our congregation can use to explore the issues and ways they can get involved.
- 7) Create study groups in addition to Mark's monthly conversations, *White People Wondering*.

CLOSING READING AND CHALICE EXTINGUISHING - *Karen*

BOARD ORIENTATION SESSIONS-Saturday, Sept. 19, 2020, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

NEXT BOARD COUNCIL MEETING - Tuesday, September 29th, 2020

NEXT BOARD MEETING- Tuesday, Oct 6th, 2020

~Draft, v2 Laurel Amabile, Clerk