

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Congregation Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting at 5:30 pm via Zoom

October 21, 2021

MISSION STATEMENT: *All Souls Unitarian Universalist Congregation is a liberal religious congregation that nurtures lifelong spiritual development. We covenant to create a welcoming, caring, justice-seeking community within and beyond these walls.*

VISION STATEMENT: *All Souls welcomes seekers to our liberal religion and offers a transformative worship experience. We act boldly, compassionately, and publicly for justice. We intentionally share the message of Unitarian Universalism. While building a congregation of over 300 members, we broaden and deepen our ministries with community partnerships and an integrated campus.*

Call to Order at 5:30 pm

Members present via Zoom: Sally McGee, Janet Beebe, Bob Mountz, Janet Marolda, Katrina Bercaw, Bruce Cummings, Jonathan Towne

Members not present: Karen Ethier-Waring, Danielle Gutowski-Mello

Others present: Perry Montrose, Rev. Caitlin O'Brien

Chalice Lighting and Reading: Bob Mountz

Approval of [minutes](#) from September 16 Board meeting. Janet B. moved to approve, Janet M. seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Mission/Vision

1. **START update:** We will have a special service on Nov. 14 for Carolyn's 20-year anniversary of ordination and serving All Souls, but a bigger celebration will be postponed till spring, and combined with Caitlin's 10-yr anniversary. Coffee hour (coffee and tea) will begin Sunday, October 31. Now softly singing. :)
2. **Sunday services** check-in: In-person often in 60s with some empty seats (capacity 85), but still great to be back in person. Discussed whether we still need sign-up genius for regular services; consensus was that we could just use it for those services we anticipate being larger. It was then suggested that before we make a change, maybe let people know that there are seats available to see if that fills the seats. Then consider dropping the signup. Contact tracing is another factor. Faith formation is averaging 30 children and youth. It was high 30s before pandemic; fewer kids but those that come are more consistent.
3. **Town Hall meeting re building project.** Presentation on background and priorities was clear and well received. One no vote, but everyone else was in

favor of focusing on regathering, with discussion in spring of next steps on construction. It was queried whether the congregation would be asked before spending more from the Capital Campaign. We're not proceeding with big things, tho might proceed with smaller efforts. The Board suggested that the congregation would be asked to approve spending greater than \$5,000, no more than an aggregate of \$15,000 within 12 months. Parking lot was in the original approved plan, but would be disruptive, and might need changes later. Facilities is considering making a more attractive barrier or in other ways addressing the problem area near the river birch, perhaps including removing it (warn the congregation, and let them know the reasons before removal). Costs will not be great.

4. **Oct. 2 March for Abortion Rights** - great turnout, elected officials, a lot of Souls. In solidarity with other marches across the country. Nice article in The New London Day. Heard that it was hard to hear the speeches near the courthouse.
5. **Week of Non-Violent Civil Action at the White House in Washington DC**, led by indigenous and people of color who are disproportionately affected by climate change. Sally McGee, President, represented All Souls. On Monday Indigenous people led, and were some of the first arrested, zip ties around wrists, sent to a tent for processing. Tuesday was led by a variety of religious groups, mostly white. Police handled them differently: no zip ties, hands off, just escorted off. Processing included the option of not paying the fine, which wasn't true on Monday. Last day was led by youth.

Business

1. Treasurer's report – Janet shared financial sheets. We're still ahead of budget, though less than last month. Fewer campaign contributions coming in. Insurance contract was inspected to see where savings could be found. Finance committee suggested that costs of moving the piano and organ be allocated to the capital campaign, since they were originally moved for construction. The board agreed.
2. Staff and ministers' reports - Staff are actively listening to congregational interests and concerns, recognizing that a long-term perspective is helpful as we re-connect.
3. [Counters](#) for Sundays - slots filled through 11/21
4. Discussed the Board meeting in person (with masks) vs. online. Pros and cons. Can do a poll before the next meeting.

Calendar

1. Executive committee meeting **Thursday** Nov 11 at 5:00 pm via Zoom
2. November 14 Carolyn's 20th Anniversary celebration

3. Board meeting Thursday November 18 at 5:30 pm