

USG Board of Trustees Minutes - 12/18/20

- 1) **Covid Relief Fund Update** - the fund welcomed Lee Meinicke as a new member. Over 20 new applications were received after appeals from the Board President and communications from neighbors Bob and Nancy Elfant. Sam and Eva reviewed and organized the many emails recently received. The committee had a marathon meeting and reviewed all the recommendations and developed an action plan for each one. The most recent grants were to the Mattie Dixon Community Cupboard, enabling this group to help up to 10 families with a mortgage or rent, and to a family. The committee will be reaching out to the organizations and individuals who have been suggested and we will be able to spend all our available dollars within the next few months. Eric Foster will be the point person for check requests in the immediate future. John will send Andrea B. and Kent information to access the spreadsheet that tracks all grants.
- 2) **November Board Minutes** - minutes approved.
- 3) **MET Report** - MET discussed the process for transferring money from the Sullivan Fund to the Covid Relief Fund. An email from Eric/Celeste detailing the process will be forwarded to Andrea B.
- 4) **Minister's Report** - Kent reported that folks have expressed satisfaction with the planning and preparation for the Widening the Circle and Braver Angels programs. There is a sense of shock and sadness regarding Celeste's brother being in hospice care and Latifah's fiance having serious medical issues and we hold them in our thoughts.
- 5) **Endowment Policies** - We heard a report from the policies and procedures working group. Questions include: Can some funds be combined? Who should be involved in drafting policies? How should the Endowment be used? The goal will be to come up with a draft policy. A committee needs to be formed to draft policy and we also need to identify members with historical knowledge and financial knowledge to guide the process. Recommendations included: Vanessa Lowe, Eric Foster, Bill Morrow, Susan Bockius. Dev and Lee will form the committee. It was also noted that values need to be considered and inform how we invest, as well as how the money is used.
- 6) **Sullivan Assistance Fund** - Norman Matlock, the longest serving committee member on the SAF, will remain on the committee. Andrea B. will be contacting Norman to thank him and let him know we appreciate his many years of service and we are delighted that he will be continuing to provide integrity and a thoughtful perspective.
- 7) **Widening the Circle Update** - The UUA Commission on Institutional Change Report, "Widening the Circle", addresses the perennial problem of race in Unitarian Universalism and has created a program of 11 sessions to address anti-oppression training and multicultural competency. The Board is collaborating with the Ending Racism Committee in participating and providing leadership for this program. Five Board members have

committed to participating as well as four MET members. The action guide can be found at:

<https://usguu.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Study-Action-Guide-for-Widening-the-Circle.pdf> Also, copies of the Widening the Circle report are available at USG.

- 8) **Fundraising Consultants Update** - Members of the congregation have been selected for interviews (based on age group, level of giving, family status, race/ethnicity, etc.). Letters have been sent to prospective participants & confidential interviews have been scheduled. The consultants will provide a summary & findings after the interviews are completed. Three foci are being explored: annual giving, enthusiasm for giving to capital projects, & interest in bequest giving.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sam Stormont - Secretary, USG Board of Trustees