

First Unitarian Church of St. Louis Policy Board Meeting

Monday, Jun 9, 2025, 6:30–8:00 p.m. – via Zoom

President Kathy Wilke called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m

Others in attendance: Betty Neill; Deborah Cavanaugh Grant; Carl Bassi ; Chris Peterson ; Chris Kocher ; Kim Mason ; Mike Bray ; Margaret Weck ; Lisa Ross

Absent: Sidney Watson

Church Council: Cathy Rauch

Staff: Lynn Hunt, Rev. Michele Grove

Chalice Lighting by Kathy

Board Covenant read by Kathy

The Process Observer is Betty Neil

Consent Agenda

Minutes from 5/12/25 Board meeting (approved)

Minutes from 5/18/25 Board meeting (approved)

Report of the Minister-Rev. Kim Mason

Report of the Administration - Lynn Hunt

Report from the President-Kathy Wilke

Report from Director of Religious Education - Michele Grove

Church Council Notes (no report this month)

Financials from the Treasurer

Updates:

Rev. Kim Mason announced the hiring of Reverend Sabrina Trupia as the Minister of Congregational Life. Rev. Trupia will start on July 13, 2025. They will be involved with life span Religious Education and membership. They will also be available to preach from time to time.

Tornado damage update- The trees in the front of the Church building were removed by contractors provided by the City of St. Louis. It is noted that the city will probably repair the sidewalk damaged by the trees. There is still have some trees that need some work along with

general clean-up. The damage to the slate roof, windows and the fence along Kingshighway also need to be addressed. We will need to find an arborist to address the remaining tree issues. Lynn will follow up with that and reach out to the City of St. Louis regarding their responsibilities.

It is noted that we are not using our building insurance because the deductible is very high and our damages will not exceed that amount.

Application to UUA for relief funds- Rev. Mason and Lynn are completing an application to the UUA for some relief funds. They are proposing asking for:

\$25,000 for the Church property

\$ 8,000 for members of our congregation to help pay insurance deductibles

\$7,000 for nearby community assistance

The Board then welcomed Facility Chair Tom Finan to discuss the status of the building evaluation consultant. The committee reached out to several consultants and chose Charles Bell because he has experience with Church buildings. His bid is under \$10,000 to create a long term plan for the repair, updates and future for the building.

Tom will submit the proposal with price estimates to the Board. It was suggested that the plan should address the compliance with the Vision statement that was adopted this year. Betty offered the vision surveys that were produced via the process leading to the vision statement.

Board Basics for discussion- Reverend Mason had provided links to materials that explored information on Church Boards and how they should function. The board discussed these concepts and how they may apply to First Church.

New Business

Fall retreat scheduling-August 16, 2025 at First Church

Social event on August 15. Some ideas and suggestions were mentioned.

All Board members were asked to sign up to greet on Sunday mornings

Liaison positions to Board Committees:

Ministry

Personnel – Betty Neill will continue in that roll

Nominating

Conflict and Conduct policy was briefly mentioned. Lynn will send copies of the policy for board members to sign.

Michele Grove was recognized and thanked for her work as RE Director this past year.

Wrap up – What needs to be done:

Lynn will reach out to the City of St. Louis regarding their responsibilities for repair of the sidewalk.

Tom will submit the proposal with price estimates to the Board

Treasurer, Margaret Weck promised to review the Endowments for specifics on their use.

Betty will supply Tom with the vision surveys that were produced via the process leading to the vision statement.

Board members will view the videos via the link provided by Rev. Mason regarding Board Basics

Explore possible venues for a get together prior to the Board Retreat

Members will sign the Conflict and Conduct policy-copies provided by Lynn

from Process Observer - Betty said we did a great job and finished on time.

Reverend Mason gave some closing words, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:58.

Next meeting July 14, 2025 at 6:30 by Zoom

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Wilke