

First Unitarian Church of St. Louis Policy Board Meeting
Monday, March 10, 2025, 6:30–8:00 p.m. – via Zoom
Minutes

President Charles (Chuck) Eby called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Others in attendance: Larry Dusenbery, Vice President; Kathy Wilke, Treasurer; Sidney Watson, Secretary; Trustee; Chris Kocher, Trustee; Rebecca (Becca) McBride;

Absent: Betty Neill, Trustee

Church Council: Sherry Bassi

Staff: Lynn Hunt, Rev. Michele Grove

Opening Words by Larry

Chalice Lighting by Chuck

Board Covenant read by Larry

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cBWTB1BODfNv4Xks6vuDCH0RmnF5brnV/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=105183447557092303738&rtpof=true&sd=true

The Process Observer is Becca

Check-in: We shared some of our favorite local restaurants with Rev. Michele for her next visit to St. Louis.

Consent Agenda

- Minutes from February 10, 2025, Board meeting
- Minutes from February 23, 2025, Board meeting
- Report of the Administration - Lynn Hunt
- Report from the President - Chuck Eby
- Report from Director of Religious Education - Michele Grove
- Report from the Sabbatical Minister - Sabrina Trupia
- Church Council Notes

We tabled the February 10 minutes to next month since everyone did not have a chance to read them.

Becca moved to approve the February 23 minutes. Larry seconded. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Kathy presented the February 2025 Statement of Activity and answered questions.

New Business

- Review of draft "ICE agent at the door" policy

The Policy Board reviewed and edited the draft policy prepared by Chuck, Larry, and Sidney.

Sidney moved that we send the draft, as edited, to the Church Council, Sabbatical Committee, staff, and others for their input and suggestions before we vote on the policy at the April Policy Board meeting. Kathy seconded. The motion passed.

- Conflict of Interest Form-Review and Sign

Lynn discussed a First U Conflict and Conduct Policy, marked as a draft dated 7/22/13. We are unsure whether the document was adopted, but we agreed it was a good conflicts policy and it would be desirable to have one.

Becca moved to adopt the First U Conflict and Conduct Policy as presented with the addition of a signature, printed name, and date line. Kathy seconded. Motion passed.

- Volunteers to select 2024-2025 Ross and Fathman awardees

We need two Board members to help select the 2024-2025 Ross and Fathman Awards winners. The Ross Award recognizes a lifetime of service to the church. The Fathman Award is for exceptional services this year, similar to an MVP award.

Chuck suggests that the selection committee be composed of two Board members, last year's honorees, Kathy Wire and Tom Finan. Typically, the minister is also a member of the selection committee. Lynn suggested the committee run the names of the potential selections by her since Rev. Kim is away on sabbatical.

Chuck moved that Betty Neil and Chuck Eby be the Board representatives to the committee to choose the awardees. Larry seconded. Motion passed.

- Social Justice Committee's plan to expand Saturday Vigil focus

Sherri reported that the Social Justice Committee plans to expand the social witnessing to a broader focus on rights. People can bring signs. There will be no partisan political signs but signs focusing on rights and protections. The committee is also inviting more engagement from church members and friends.

The Board thanks the committee for their efforts and witnessing.

- Personnel Committee's Director of Congregational Life position

Rev. Michele shared the job posting for the new Director of Congregational Life position. Michele explained the Personnel Committee's process for developing the draft job announcement. This matter does not need a board vote or action, but Rev. Michele wanted the Board to see it before sharing it publicly.

Updates

- Vision Statement-three finalists-collect congregation feedback

The next step in adopting a vision statement is to present the three choices to the congregation through a Survey Monkey poll. Responses should be due in time for the Board to discuss the results at the April meeting, allowing the final choice to be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

- Facilities Committee RFP for church building condition survey

Board members reviewed the RFP that Facilities Committee chair Tom Finana wrote and sent to three entities. Larry and Chuck previously reviewed the document and found two factual errors, which they communicated to Tom.

We discussed that the Facilities Committee, not the Board, is responsible for requesting and vetting bids. The bid asked for a written report and suggested the possibility of a presentation. A presentation would be to a meeting of the Facilities Committee, which Chuck and Larry plan to attend.

- Canvass update

Lynn announced that today's pledge tally is \$276,000, 61% of our goal. Just under half of the members have submitted their pledges.

We will achieve our goal by increasing pledges by 15% each week.

Other Business

Wrap-up: What do we need to do before the next board meeting?

- The committee will select awardees for the Ross and Fathman awards – Betty and Chuck.
- Lynn will create the Vision Statement Survey Monkey poll and solicit Board input before sending it to the Congregation.
- Sherri will take the draft ICE drat policy to the Council, Lynn to the staff, and Chuck to the Sabbatical Committee.

Process Observer Becca said we went a little over but had some meaty discussion. "Not shabby."

Adjourned at 8:07

The next Policy Board meeting is on Zoom on Monday, April 14, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Sidney Watson
Secretary