

AGENDA  
FIRST UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF WAUSAU  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
February 21, 2023 6:30 pm

Mission Statement: To transform ourselves and the larger community by being a bright and welcoming sanctuary of hope, compassion, service and understanding – allowing individuals of differing spiritual and religious beliefs to experience acceptance and support, a sense of belonging, and continued personal growth as part of a free-thinking, inclusive church community.

To attend: Scharpf, Stezenski-Williams, Jefferson (Treasurer and Presiding), Hall and Ashenbrenner

Excused: Mason (ex-officio), Hemp and Leigh

Chalice lighting, reading, reflections

Agenda Consent and Repair

Approval of the January minutes, Treasurer's report, committee reports (Consent agenda)

Old Business

Strategic Plan – subgroup reports

Stewardship Campaign - next steps

Sabbatical related issues

Leadership recruitment status

Property/Endowment/Board meeting report

New Business

Property Committee request

Upcoming CW article from Board – Brian to develop a schedule

March potluck with COM

Adjournment

**First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau**  
**Board of Trustees**  
**January 17, 2023**

**Present:** Dawn Ashenbrenner, Kara Hall, Sheryl Hemp, Randy Jefferson, Jeff Leigh, Karen Scharpf, Brian Stezenski-Williams

**Excused:** Mason (ex-officio)

**I. Call to Order:** 6:32

**II. Chalice lighting, reading, reflections**

**III. Agenda Consent and Repair**

- Motion by Kara, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dawn approved unanimously

**IV. Election of 2023 Board Officers**

- Motion to reelect incumbent officers by Dawn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kara, approved unanimously

**V. Approval of the December minutes, Treasurer's report, Committee reports (Consent agenda)**

In response to two issues raised in the committee reports it was decided by consensus that:

1. Jefferson and Leigh will attend the New Members' Class in March
2. Regarding the issue of community members looking for assistance from the Minister's Discretionary Fund, staff members will take contact information and inform Jefferson, who is empowered to make disbursements of up to \$100. Requests for greater amounts will require the approval of two additional board officers. Hemp will inform the staff of the current interim arrangement and contact UUA for assistance with setting guidelines moving forward. Upon Mason's return, the Board will discuss these guidelines to include the appropriate dollar amount that should be in discretionary funds and amounts that should be disbursed without the approval of the board.

**III. Strategic Plan**

- No new meetings since December
- Sheryl asked the groups to meet prior to the next Board meeting

**IV. Stewardship Update**

- Sheryl spoke with Carl Drake in early January and he noted that we are significantly "short" of the budgeted goal
- Randy
  - 62 pre-paid pledge units = \$185,000
  - 32 people increased pledges
  - 10 People decreased
  - 20 Remained the same
- One of the decreases was very large - \$35k
- A year ago the report showed 88 pledges = \$270k
- Randy concerned about the decrease in pledges and the amount of funds which have come in so far
- The good news is that we finished last year with cash on hand
- We will need to use cash reserves in order to cash flow in 2023
- We need to tell everyone where we stand and why we need them to pledge

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- We need ask everyone to make their pledges and, when doable, increase their pledges
- Ask people to think about making additional gifts later in the year
- Randy will ask Danika to not make any “discretionary” payments for the next few months until we have a better understanding of our financial position

**V. Sabbatical Update**

- Randy & Jeff will attend the first staff meeting next month
- Each staff member has an individual contact on the Board
  - Danika is working with Randy
  - Jess is working with Jeff
  - Sheryl is working with Margaret
  - Carolyne is working with Sheryl
- Carolyne Powers approached Sheryl about people asking for more programs for older members of the church
- Discussion around creating an elder group to identify programs that they collectively think would be helpful
- No interest in doing an isolated program on advanced directives at this time...seems too favorable to the one "provide" willing to make a “volunteer” presentation

**VI. Board, Endowment & Property Meeting will be February 9 at 6:00 pm**

- Randy had suggested taking some of the excess funds from 2022 to pay for the property committee’s most urgent project....but now he’s hesitant to make that offer

**VII. Presidents Report**

- No additional comments beyond the Board discussion

**VIII. Minister’s Fellowship renewal**

- Only two sections not completed
- Karen indicated that her section will be done in the next day or so
- Brian explained that he has no basis for evaluating the minister’s spiritual growth
- Randy offered to review the spiritual growth section and re-write whatever parts need updates from what he wrote last year...consensus that the section should include some discussion of the work Reverend Mason put into preparing for his pilgrimage in France
- Sheryl will combine all of the sections in one document for the BOT to review
- The BOT will reconvene on January 30 at 6:30 pm to discuss and finalize the ratings for each of the seven sections

**IX. Circuit Writer**

- Randy will write the February message from the Board
- Brian will draft a schedule for the remainder of the calendar year for the Board to review and finalize at the next meeting

**X. Adjournment**

- Motion to Adjourn by Dawn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Karen, approved unanimously