



**Foothills Board of Trustees
Draft Regular Meeting Minutes
Date 2-8-2024**

Board Members Present: Beth Adams, Sue Bloomfield, John Hill, Dianna Hutchinson, Mary Klecan, Linda Kothera, Gretchen Haley (ex-officio)

Absent: Walter Nash

Others present: Susan Williams

Consent Agenda:

The January Board meeting minutes were approved without objection.

A motion was made to accept the updated Board Handbook. Motion approved without objection.

A motion was made to invite Susan Williams to serve as an interim, acting Trustee for the remainder of Walter Nash's term. Beth Adams will fulfill duties as Vice President in an acting role.

Diana Hutchinson suggested the need for an updated or clarified policy to address absences for Board members, to accommodate situations when members take leave from their Board work. The Policy Committee (Diana and Andrea Delorey) will do this task.

Regular Agenda

Board Discussion

Gretchen shared that the Employee handbook has been updated. In particular, two items have been revised and the changes will be submitted to the Policy committee to review. The first provides details on the granting of Sabbaticals, and the second pertains to having employees' children at work.

Linkage Work

Members of the Board reported on some of their Linkage meetings.

Beth and Mary are working on a Linkage Committee charter to guide future efforts in this relatively new area of Board work.

Gretchen talked about the importance of the continuity of this process. Not all initial linkage meetings will result in partnerships going forward, but the work should be documented such that future boards can build on the current Board's work.

For example, she mentioned a document describing the concept of "moral owners" and there was a discussion on what this means for linkage work. In a sense, the moral owners can be thought of as shareholders, where the "profit" that is being generated is the mission of the church. Thus we want to partner with those who are working towards the same ends as us and we do this in service of developing our vision.

Mary mentioned that a lot of what has been written on the topic is in the context of activities within the church, and our efforts to go beyond the immediate congregation will need to be figured out as we go.

The Board then broke into small groups to practice linkage conversations.

Ministry Report

People new to Foothills continue to attend services. So much so that there is a need to convey the nuts and bolts of Unitarian Universalism. Gretchen shared that the church is purchasing a packaged curriculum from the UU church in Dallas that has this needed educational content.

Her Senior Minister's report will be presented at an upcoming Board meeting.

The schedule for small groups (Wellspring, Journey groups) meeting in the coming weeks has been finalized.

Checkouts

- Board members were energized by the prospect of getting underway with linkage work.
- Bevs with the Board were scheduled for February 13th and 14th, and will be repeated in a few weeks.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30 pm.

Minutes written and presented by Linda Kothera