

**Towson Unitarian Universalist Church
Board of Trustees
December 2023 Meeting**

Date/Time:	December 19, 2023
Meeting:	December Board Meeting
Participants:	Patty Barry, SarahRuth Davis, Andrew Hager, Ellie Hughes, Tricia Lott, Larry Magder, Michael Magrogen, Tracey Myers-Preston, Rev. Clare Petersberger, Susan Riggs
Absent:	
Guests:	
Location:	Zoom
Next meeting:	Wednesday, January 17 at 7:30 pm

Pre-meeting Action Items:

Activity	Owner	Target Date
These action items are to be completed before the meeting. Often, they are related to consent agenda items, which are items for which there is no discussion unless a member has a question concerning them.		
Read and provide revisions of minutes from the previous Board meeting.	All	12/19
Read reports.	All	12/19

Scheduled Agenda:

Chalice Lighting	Tracey Myers-Preston
Go-Around Question	Andrew Hager
Process Observation	Susan Riggs
Consent Agenda	Owner
Approve minutes from October Board Meeting	Patty Barry
Accept Minister's Report (Appendix 1)	Rev. Clare Petersberger
Accept President Report (Appendix 2)	Andrew Hager
Accept President-Elect's Report (Appendix 3)	Ellie Hughes
Accept Treasurer's Report (Appendix 4)	Larry Magder

Discussion Agenda	
A-Team topic: Accessibility	Rev. Clare Petersberger Ellie Hughes
info on January 27th 11 - 3 Leadership Retreat	Tracey Myers-Preston
Miscellaneous	Andrew Hager

Having no further business before it, the meeting adjourned at

Appendix 1: Minister's Report

REPORT TO BOARD FROM REV. CLARE

December 15, 2023

Since my last report...

WORSHIP

November 12 we celebrated Diwali. One expectation of the holiday is giving the gift of generosity. Kara Tyler taught us a dance! SarahRuth delivered the meditation! The Choir sang! It was a joyful worship service!

November 19 we explored what the Buddha taught about generosity. The Community Choir offered their gift of music. Mia Hager lighted our chalice. Edith Roundy led us in meditation for the Time for All Ages. Henry Gieszl and Mia Hager worked on hospitality. Our Youth Group and Community Choir were the perfect illustration of what the Buddha taught about generosity!

November 26 we are all grateful to Dominique Hall for stepping in for Tracey Myers Preston who crafted a beautiful worship service on hospitality and connection (and who was prepared to deliver it with her children) before falling ill. Thank you, Tracey! Thank you, Dominique!

December 3 we began exploring the gift of mystery with a closer look at what the proposed Article II revision of the UUA Bylaws has to say about direct experience of transcending mystery and wonder. The Choir sang. Kara creatively shared how the proposed values of Article II are like the Eevee in Pokemon Go. Several people have since told me that they've read Marie Howe's poem, "Singularity" to family members. And we included a beautiful tree Tracey Myers Preston had created for participants in Our Journeys (which concluded Nov 19th) to write their hopes for their journey with TUUC.

December 10 we celebrated the mystery of hope. Larry Magder lighted Hanukkah candles. The Community Choir sang. Kara Tyler shared the story of Pandora and Hope. Several TUUC members shared with me, after the service, their own search for hope.

December 17 we are lifting up the mystery of God in a multigenerational worship service with the Choir singing and our Youth Group delivering a story about Hide and Seek with God.

Tracy, Kara, and I are well along in planning for the family service on the wonder of stars at 5:30 and a more traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight service on the mystery of the Incarnation at 7:30. And we are looking forward to singing The Twelve Days of Christmas with gestures in the caroling service at 10:30 a.m.!

On November 12th I officiated at a service in the Memorial Garden to lay to rest cremains of Andree and Steve Maslen. It was lovely to have the music of Janet Kuperstein and her husband Gregory on the violin. They both knew Andree.

I met with Bill Flexner and Riah Werner on December 5 to plan the child dedication of Zora Wexner on February 11th! Bill and Riah are new members who come to us from the good UU's of Toronto, Canada. This will be our first baby dedication since the pandemic.

I am meeting with Barbara Bachur to sign the membership book on Sunday. And I am speaking with Thomas Higdon who is interested in learning more about membership.

SarahRuth Davis and I have been meeting weekly to talk about the January 28, 2024 TUUC worship service which participants in Worship As A Spiritual Practice will be offering.

I wrote a December column for The Threshold about transcending mystery and wonder.

PASTORAL CARE

Lay Pastoral Associates met on November 13 and December 11. The Rev. Karyn Marsh will be leaving our group (but not membership in TUUC!) because she has accepted a part time position with the UU's of Fallston.

I have made 11 pastoral visits.

PROGRAMMING

I hosted the November 28 and December 12 sessions of Soul Matters Sharing Circles. Writing As A Spiritual Practice met on November 17 with prompts on the work of our hands; on December 1 with prompts on experiences of transcending mystery and wonder, and on December 15 with prompts on silence and experiences of winter solstice.

I attended the December Program Council Meeting.

The staff met on November 15 and December 13.

A-TEAM Report

(please see separate document and attachments.)

WIDER COMMUNITY

I attended the December meeting of the interfaith Anam Cara clergy group.

I met with Hannah Freeman to discuss next steps in the Safe Water group for BRIDGE Maryland. I attended the December meeting of this issues group (along with Ann Beezley, Carel Hedlund, Heather Harts'horn) and wrote closing words for this meeting.

DENOMINATION

On November 14, I attended a virtual coffee for supervisors of ministerial interns from Meadville Lombard.

November 16 I attended a virtual meeting of colleagues to talk about the Israel/Palestine conflict.

November 17, I attended the first planning meeting for the UUA GA 2025 which will be....IN BALTIMORE!!!!!!

On November 29th, I attended the meeting of the Chesapeake Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association in Columbia and met with a colleague in my role as Good Officer.

I attended the December meeting of the Leadership Team of the Chesapeake Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Clare

Appendix 2: President's Report

December 17, 2023

Since our last meeting, I have done the following.

I attended the program council meeting in December. I shared some information about the leadership retreat scheduled for January 27 from 11 AM-3 PM.

Cabin Fever met twice this month, discussing *The Deer Hunter* and *Grace QUIGLEY*.

I also attended the A-Team meeting on December 15. I was happy to see that they approved of the DKMB architecture bid.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Hager

Appendix 3: President-Elect's Report

As President-Elect, I convened a meeting of the Program Council on December 6. Our spotlight topic was accessibility, and in particular a discussion of the changes that we can make immediately in response to feedback from an accessibility focus group convened by Sue Royer. Special shout-outs to the teens for brainstorming how we might reconfigure the lobby during hospitality to make it more accessible; to Jane D'Ambrogi for jumping on board with the plan and rethinking some of the ways we use space in terms of storage; and to the A Team for considering how we can provide more space for people to connect at hospitality. I discussed church matters with Andrew via email, phone, and in-person meetings.

Lou and I provided childcare during the auction—we had a blast playing charades and Pictionary with kids! We supported the teens during YRE in service on November 19, and I attended an RE Committee meeting on November 28. We met with the teens on December 10 to organize their involvement in service on December 17, where they presented an interactive Time for All Ages about playing hide-and-seek with God.

Kara and I held a Makers' Meetup on December 12 that was attended by members of our families.

In support of Gallery Unicorn, I opened up the church for visitors on November 17 to view the exhibition on display.

As convener of the team coordinating the initial phases of the accessibility project, I made a series of reference calls and, having received very positive responses, asked for the A Team to make a recommendation to the Board that we hire the firm in question.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellie Hughes

Appendix 4: Treasurer's Report

End of November 2023

As of the end of November, our endowment account had \$ 1,161,868.78. This is up \$96,631.00 (9.0%) from the end of October. The total cash in the endowment fund as of the end of November was \$ 31,156.13 (3%) in cash and \$ 79,898.924 (7%) in bonds.

As of the end of November the money in our checking, PNC money market, and Schwab money market accounts totaled \$119,110. This includes the money in reserved accounts. This is down around \$11,000 from the amount at the end of October. This does not include the \$153,005.87 that we received from the Bolz bequest.

As of the end of November we have \$5700 in the building fund (according to Arkady).

Larry Magder, Treasurer

December 18, 2023