

### **Board Mission**

To provide leadership that supports the church's mission through effective policies and responsible stewardship.

### **Board Covenant**

We covenant to: Respect time by following a timed agenda and reviewing meeting materials prior to arrival, respect differing opinions, listen without interrupting, make space for all, remember the big picture, speak with one voice once a decision has been made, focus on church business, refrain from micromanagement, work within the context of the UUA.

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HINSDALE BOARD OF TRUSTEES A “Virtual” Meeting via ZOOM Video October 14, 2020**

### Those Present:

Trustees: Bob Daniel-Wayman, Gene Schafer, Susan Mooney, Darren Howard, Suzanne Williams, Dave Mrazek, Mike Pabian

Staff: Rev. Pam Rumancik. Pam Fodor

Guest: Rachael Meadors

1. Call to order: The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:09 p.m.
2. Check-in & Feathers: Those present shared.
3. Approval of Minutes:  
There being no objections or corrections to the draft of the minutes of the September 9, 2020, Board meeting, the **minutes were approved.**
4. Reports:
  - a. Darren Howard reviewed his Treasurer’s Report. He noted that the approved budget didn’t contemplate the recent personnel changes. That is something that we will have to monitor.
  - b. Rev. Pam reviewed her report. She noted the recent communications upgrade. She will create a sign-up sheet for Board member to take turns delivering the offering message during Sunday service.
  - c. Bob Daniel-Wayman raised the question of how, in our current separated environment, we can get a sense of what is going on with members of the congregation – a sense of the church and congregation. The possibility of putting a soapbox/comments/concerns corner in the Touchstone was discussed.
5. Other Business:

- a. Bob Daniel-Wayman made a motion, seconded by Dave Mrazek, to adopt the following statement, drafted by Gene Schafer, regarding the proposed “Fair Tax” Amendment current on the ballot:

The UCH Executive Board supports the proposed Illinois Allow for Graduated Income Tax Amendment, otherwise known as the fair tax. This would allow Illinois to replace our current flat tax with a more sustainable and just progressive income tax system. This system would be enacted according to Senate Bill 687.

Because the majority of income rests with a small portion of the population, not allowing this income to be taxed at a higher rate increases income taxes for all other individuals. This is the case in Illinois. The majority of states in the US have progressive income tax systems, and compared to these states the highest income earners in Illinois would currently have the third lowest tax rate, while the lowest income earners would have the third highest tax rate. This creates deficiencies that must be made up from other places – such as sales, utility, and gas taxes – that also create a heavier burden on lower income families and individuals. The effects of these tax systems help to perpetuate inequality and make it harder to escape poverty.

COVID has exacerbated an already tenuous budget situation, with a current budget that relies on a \$5 billion loan from the federal reserve next year. Many people insist that the long-term solutions to Illinois’ budget issues must be improving spending policy. They may be right. But too often the easiest and most immediate budget “solutions” are made by cutting programs and services which disproportionately – or even exclusively – impact our poorest citizens. It’s unfair to ask them to sacrifice on the budget when they are already sacrificing so heavily on taxes.

Therefore, the UCH Executive Board believes that passage of the graduated income tax amendment is in keeping with our seven principles – particularly our second principle calling for justice, equity, and compassion – and encourages a yes vote this November 3.

**Motion passed.**

- b. Bob Daniel-Wayman introduced the modified version of the Board covenant. It appears at the top of this document.
- c. The Board reviewed the revised Ends Statement approved last year and proposed modifications to the Policy on Board-Minister Relationship. A vote will be taken on the latter next month.

6. Adjournment:

- a. Susan Mooney moved to adjourn. Gene Schafer seconded. **Motion passed.**
- b. Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:17 p.m.