

# FirstU Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 12, 2021 – ZOOM – 7:00 p.m.

*Our mission is to “Kindle the light within and inspire courage to nurture the web of life and to create a just and compassionate world.*

**In attendance (10):** Lisa Sharp (President), Guy Belleperche (Past President), Brent Nicolle (Vice-President), Caycee Price (Secretary), Justine De Jaegher (Treasurer); Andrew Drake, Carl Sonnen, David Chernushenko, and Irvin Waller (Members at Large), Rev. Pat Haresch

**Guests:** Margaret Linton

## References:

Agenda

Appendix 1: Minutes of Board Meeting from April 21, 2021

Appendix 2: Minutes of the Fall Congregational Meeting 2020

Appendix 3: Finance Committee Investment Policy

Appendix 4: CPC—Revised Motions

Call to order 7:00pm

### 1. Welcome and call to order

- a. Opening Reading/ Song – Andrew/ Justine
- b. Selection of Time Keeper/ Process Monitor – David
- c. Brief check-in was done by all

### 2. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of agenda
- b. Approval of Minutes from April 21, 2021 meeting
- c. Minutes of the Fall Congregational Meeting 2020
- d. Motion to accept new member Jacquelin Holzman
- e. Approval of Kris Cormier as Chair of Embracing Diversity

An amendment was moved by Lisa, seconded by Guy to accept Jacquelin Holzman as a new member to the congregation.

A second amendment was moved by Lisa, seconded by Andrew to approve Kris Cormier as Chair of the Embracing Diversity Committee.

Vote on the amendments to consent agenda: Both passed.

**Motion to move Consent agenda. Moved by Caycee, seconded by Brent, motion carries.**

### 3. Committee Reports

- a. Environmental Action Group (EAG) – Margaret Linton presented the EAG’s motion hoping the Board will support bringing it to FirstU’s AGM in June. (see Appendix 3, added below) Questions about current finances were also answered.

Rev. Pat expressed she was impressed with how well FirstU's investments have done. Justine, as Treasurer, explained that the motion had also already been reviewed by the Finance Committee and she believes the portfolio is still very reasonably diversified.

**Motion: That the board support bringing EAG's Investment Policy motion to FirstU's AGM on June 6, 2021. Moved by Justine, seconded by Irvin. Motion carries.**

- b. Indigenous Reconciliation Discussion—A group is being formed to discuss options about how FirstU can go forward with respect to reconciliation. Lisa explained that from the feedback received from there are many differing views about what the word reconciliation means. A small discussion was had about whether or not the group would fall under SRC or report directly to the Board. A meeting will be happening this Sunday for any to attend. Any decision making has been postponed to the Board's June meeting.
- c. Revised Campus Planning Committee (CPC) Motions (Appendix 4)— Lisa let us know there was a meeting with EAG on Monday where they revised the proposed motions. Some small changes to verbiage were made but more importantly a decision was made to drop the motion involving the site plan at this time (which CAHDCO also supported). Another meeting was held with Unitarian House where the CPC process was presented with a Q&Q and Lisa expressed the meeting was well-received.

**Motion: That the FirstU Board of Directors indicate their support for the current CPC motion. Directors will have until tomorrow evening at 6pm to raise any serious substantive concerns with Lisa, who will book a discussion with herself and Terry to discuss. Moved by Guy, seconded by Justine. Motion carries.**

#### 4. Staff Reports

- a. Minister's Report
  - i. Rev. Pat promised to have FirstU volunteer data for the next Board meeting. She also shared with us that there are now to final candidates for the position of Music Director. Current Covid restrictions are still in place and probably until at least the end of the month. Summers services are now almost completely full. Rev. Pat fielded questions about membership numbers and the personnel job descriptions (which are currently still under review).

**Action items for Rev. Pat: get back to Brent about membership numbers and attach Performance Review format to Board handbook. Also send job descriptions to the Board prior to the next meeting, if possible.**

5. **New Business**—None was presented.

#### 6. Information Items

- a. **AGM work:**
  1. Agenda—a short discussion was had about the agenda order and what special activities will happen.

2. Strategic Plan—Justine brought to our attention minor changes to the Strategic Plan that will be presented at the AGM and asked that it be included in the membership package.
3. Board bios—Brent asked that any who wanted to have their bio updated to send it to him ASAP.
4. Info sessions—two dates: Monday May 31<sup>st</sup> @ 7pm & Thursday Jun 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 10am
5. Year end Review—Lisa liked how they had one at the CUC-AGM and asked Brent and Rev. Pat if one of them would like to do similar at the AGM. TBD out of meeting.
- b. **8th Principle—CUC vote:** Lisa suggests we consider talking about the new principle at the Board Retreat (and Irvin specifically asked that the Board announce we are doing that). Ideally the congregation would accept the new principle. Rev. Pat says we can expect material from the CUC on how to proceed with the work involved in putting the principal into motion. Irvin asked that a link be added to the FirstU website to the report from the CUC Task Force (or possibly to the incoming, aforementioned CUC education material). *"We, the member congregations of the Canadian Unitarian Council, covenant to affirm and promote: 'Individual and communal action that accountably dismantles racism and other oppressions in ourselves and in our institutions.'"*

**Action items for Lisa: Lisa to send an email to Board directors asking us to fulfilling roles to assist with the AGM. Include Strategic Plan 1-pager in AGM package. Ensure link to CUC Task Force report is on FirstU website.**

**Action item for everyone: read the report found at: [www.8thprincipleuu.org/background](http://www.8thprincipleuu.org/background)**

## 7. Other Business

- a. Board "Thankyous" - CPC, Chuck Shields & Maury Prevost (for continued work with CUC and other work) E.N. Hill (**Brent** to arrange for sending of card), "Get well card" for Michelle (**Justine** to look into the possibility of cards and/ or flowers)
- b. Board Announcements - Recording: N/A / Hospitality hour: Guy
- c. Next Meetings:
  - i. AGM—June 6, 2021 at 10am
  - ii. Board Meeting: June 16, 2021 at 7pm
    1. Opening Reading: Rev. Pat.
    2. Opening Song: Rev. Pat.
    3. Closing Reading: David

## 8. Adjournment—Closing Reading - Brent

Meeting adjourned at 9:36pm.

Submitted by Caycee Price on May 26

## **Appendix 3 - Finance Committee Investment Policy**

MOTION:

WHEREAS

- greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels are the leading cause of climate change;
- the congregation has taken initial action by divesting of direct investments in Fossil Fuels;
- the congregation has no direct investments in the energy sector (clean or dirty energy);
- the congregation has a large portion of secondary investments in fossil fuel through investments in the financial sector (as of December 2020, 32% of investments (25% Canadian) were in the financial sector; this sector is heavily invested in fossil fuel industry,
- the clean energy sector and the associated clean transportation, infrastructure retrofitting, and materials sectors are growing and profitable. In 2020, seven out of 10 sustainable equity funds finished in the top halves of their Morningstar Categories, and 24 of 26 environmental, social, and governance-tilted index funds outperformed their closest conventional counterparts.

And whereas

- Project Drawdown maintains a list of climate solutions by ([www.drawdown.org](http://www.drawdown.org)) and maintains a list of sectors that decrease greenhouse gas emissions including:
  - Energy Generation or Energy Equipment (e.g., wind, solar, geothermal, bio fuels)
  - Energy management and efficiency (e.g., power storage, smart and efficient grids, lighting, IT and Industrial Processes)
  - Environmental resources (e.g., Advanced materials, Recyclable Products and Materials)
  - Environmental Support Services (e.g., Smart City Design & Engineering Environmental Consultancies)
  - Food and agriculture (e.g., Sustainable, Plant based)
  - Transport equipment and Transport Solutions (sustainable)
  - Water infrastructure and Technology (Flood Controls, Water Infrastructure, and Treatment and Utilities)
  - Waste and Pollution Control (recycling Equipment and Services, Waste Management, Cleaner Power)

- The Congregation's current investment portfolio manager has access to an ESG (Environment Societal and Governance) Rating Service

IT IS HEREBY MOVED: That the Congregation's *Investment Policy Statement within the Investment Policy*

1. Require a 15% minimum of the Congregational investment Portfolio to be invested in companies directly related to reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions – thus protecting the health of the future generations by reducing climate change. These investments would include all sectors described at [www.drawdown.org](http://www.drawdown.org). This percentage is to be reached within a year of the motion being passed.
2. Use an ESG (Environment Societal and Governance) Rating to exclude investments that have low ratings.

**Moved by** Margaret Linton and seconded by Mike Fletcher both of the Environmental Action Group.