

## Board Report – Annual Meeting 2023

Good afternoon to you all. I really hope at this point you are not too sick of me standing up in front of you at this chancel (although my minutes are numbered as of today). Our Board has done some incredible things over the course of this last year, and I am excited to share some of it with you today.

In the fall, we worked with the acting executive team to navigate the congregation into beginning a church year whilst Rev. Allison was on sabbatical. We were so impressed and pleased with the acting executive team and were also thrilled to welcome Rev. Allison back in December. The Acting Executive Team and Building Our Vision worked with us to get the ball rolling on the presentation of exploration for our building plan. We voted with an overwhelming 89% yes vote to explore the most ambitious visionary plan of 2.4 million dollars. We participated in a financial feasibility study at the end of November/Beginning of December and learned that we were in fact capable of raising the funds that were needed for this project. The board ultimately decided to pitch a 2.2-million-dollar Capital Campaign goal to the congregation in March and 87% voted in favor of moving forward.

Prior to this meeting the board wanted to talk to you all about what it is that we were asking of you. In February, we set up weekly meetings to discuss how this plan related directly back to our values and gave weekly testimonials about why we were in favor of this plan and its projected changes to the building. We were grateful to you all for your acceptance and willingness to hear us. I do believe that we have altered the future of this church's history for the better. We are choosing to live into our values and work towards our ends. I feel confident in speaking for the board when I say thank you to you all for the decisions that you made, and we feel honored to be a part of the leadership that was able to present to you.

Additionally, we had subcommittee work that was being done whilst this whole timeline had been put into place. You have heard me speak in the past about our Endowment subcommittee. We ultimately decided to put a pause on that work until we navigated our way through the roll out of the capital campaign. This work has been tabled for the coming years but the work that has been done on this subcommittee does not go unnoticed. Thank you to Burns Fisher and Victoria Agnew, who worked tirelessly to attend countless meetings and research best practices.

Our Monitoring subcommittee is now able to say that they have completed their goal. They managed to revise the entirety of section 3 of our governing policies which mainly talks about the board/executive director relationship. They also updated the monitoring table, which is what Rev. Allison uses to align with our updated policies. This project took 3 years to complete, and we know that it was no easy task. The amount of word smithing and cross referencing required to make this work is nothing short of incredible. Thank you to those members, Lindsey Hedrick, Jodie Holway, Anne Smith.

Now comes the part of my reflection over this last year and over my presidential term. For those of you who do not know, this is my final Annual Meeting as President. My term has come to an end, and it does feel a bit surreal. There is no exaggeration when I tell you that this has been one of the most meaningful experiences of my entire life. This role has even guided me in my career goals of wanting to pursue

leadership in the school system. I know that to make changes, you need to be at the table where those decisions are made.

Being your president has been spiritually moving. It has grounded me in this faith, and I know that I am meant to be a Unitarian Universalist. There are some of you in this room who saw that before I did, but you were patient with me as I learned. You trusted me to be in a role that led you. Not only that, but you helped guide me... as I worked to guide you in the ways that I could. Your kindness and compassion have moved me so deeply. I am braver than I was before, more thoughtful in many ways, I have a foundation set here that I did not know that I needed when I accepted this role so 3 years ago. I am changed because of you. I could stand up here and give you a story on how each of you holds a place in my heart ... buuuut we do not quite have the time for that. So please know that I love you all. I will miss this role and this Board. I will miss being a part of the conversations in this way but one thing that I know for sure is that your new president, Lindsey Hedrick is ready.

I hope you all know what incredible hands you are being placed into. Lindsey is such an incredibly strong leader. I would not have been able to be successful without their support. Lindsey is my opposite and I of course mean this in the best way. Any weakness of mine is their strength, we made a great team and I know they and Burns will do just the same. Lindsey is intelligent, organized, incredibly thoughtful, but most of all – dedicated. This is someone who wants nothing more than to see everyone here succeed, and what I hope they realize is that we will be able to do so because of their leadership. I am so excited for you Lindsey.

I do want to thank a couple of people before I hand this over to Allison for the minister's report. I want to thank my wonderful wife, Jess for all of her incredible support over these last three years. She has managed me going off to meetings both planned and emergency – even brought me snacks during those online meetings – she has left me encouraging notes, managed bedtimes and chores left to the way side whilst I was doing other things. You always have a hug ready for me and words of encouragement when I thought I did not get it right.

To Carol Houde and Dave Hudson – let's be real, I would probably still be staring at an email figuring out the best way to word it if it weren't for you. Your guidance and willingness to help was such an incredible safety net. I always knew that I could reach out with questions (dumb or not..) and know that there would be no judgment, and only support and love.

To the board members I have served with over these last three years as President and 7 years overall. Thank you for helping me to grow. Thank you for laughing with me, crying with me, sharing life events with me. Thank you for sharing your stories, entertaining my ice breakers, and allowing me to see you and to know you. You are the foundation of this work.

To the staff. Allison, Sadie, Ericka, Caro, and Jed. Wow. We are not able to thrive in the ways that we do without you. You often say that the people in the congregation are the heart of the church. While that may be true, you are what keeps this heart beating. You all are the pulse we need to bring life to this place. Thank you could never cover it so please just know that working with you all in this way has been more meaningful to me than I you probably realize. I will be forever grateful.

With this I leave you. I have been so incredibly honored and humbled. This congregation took a chance on a 24-year-old. A few short years later, I was moved to Vice President and now I am here. I encourage

anyone who is ever asked to be on the board to do so because this changes you. I will still be here – probably still in front of the other microphone inundating this space with pop music. I plan to continue to be as dedicated as ever ... just maybe with a few less meetings.

Thank you all.