

FIRST JEFFERSON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

SPRING CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, MAY 22, 2022



MISSION

We are a liberal religious community of diverse individuals. We nurture spiritual growth, encourage lifelong education, work for social justice, serve the larger community, and celebrate life's gifts together through meaningful worship. We welcome and support others in their expression of religious freedom.

VISION

At First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, we offer hope through service and the connections we share, we embrace the transforming power of awe, and we seek joy by living our values.

RELATIONAL COVENANT

We promise:

- to promote kindness, love, and healthy relationships
- to give each other support, empathy and understanding
- to be mindful and considerate in all our interactions
- to clarify and respect personal boundaries and feelings
- to listen to one another and seek understanding
- to respect one another and appreciate the range of opinions among us
- to strengthen one another in our free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- to act in the knowledge that we are part of a large and diverse world community
- to work toward equity, justice, and compassion in all relations
- to practice forgiveness for ourselves and others so that when we fail to keep this covenant we can begin again in love

This covenant is a touchstone for nurturing ourselves, our church community, and supporting our work in the world. Through the covenant, we enrich our relationships with one another and serve others in accordance with our principles. We pledge to revisit and renew this covenant to sustain the vitality of our congregation in our ongoing quest for spiritual growth.

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Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Certification of Quorum
3. Opening Words
4. Chalice Lighting
5. Review of Relational Covenant
6. Approval of November 2021 Minutes
7. President's Report to the Congregation
8. Minister's Report to the Congregation
9. Membership Manager's Report to the Congregation
10. Presentation of 2022-2023 Budget
11. Presentation of Name Change Choices
12. Closing Words
13. Extinguish the Chalice
14. Adjournment

First Jefferson UU Church Congregational Meeting

Fall (11 November) 2021 Meeting Minutes Draft

The meeting was called to order by Brian Skinner at 1:04 PM.

A quorum of 41 attendees (40 needed) was verified by M. A. Clark by checking the in-person sign-in sheet and the Zoom participants (Zoom link monitored by Guy Thornton).

Attendees: Joel Bailey, Glenn Bailey, Raniel Baker, David Binde, Jules Black, Roy Brake, Colleen Brewer, Jo Burnham, Mary Anne Clark, Jane Collins, Tony Collins, Christine Collins-Davis, Cory Davis (Zoom), Diane Feldman, Joylene Fletcher, Annie Foerster, Patrick Gutierrez, Terry Hancock, Marianne Herrmann, Rosalyn Hunter, Mary Kirwin, Daniel Levine, Lorraine Levine, Christina LuQuis, Bill Maginnis, Laurie Mikitka, Claire Morgen, Connie Nolen, Jude Olson (Zoom), Mike Purdin, Della Purdin, Roy Redman, Paul Schattman, Christine Schattman, Dan Sexton, Julia Sexton, Brian Skinner, Virginia Thornton, Guy Thornton, David Winkowski, Michael Zepeda.

Rev. Annie Foerster read the opening words and lit the Chalice

Brian Skinner read the Mission Statement and the Relational Covenant from the meeting packet.

Consent Agenda:

- Printed copies of the May 2021 meeting minutes were distributed for those who were unable to access the documents of the meeting packet.
- Brian summarized the President's Report from the meeting packet.
- Annie reviewed the Minister's report from the meeting packet and added that we have just received a check for support of the music program from the UUA.
- Michael Zepeda moved approval of the Consent Agenda and Betty Churchman seconded. Congregational approval was unanimous.

New Officer Election:

New board members and officers were presented to the congregation. The Nomination Committee proposed Rosalyn Hunter as the new Vice President of the Board. The committee also proposed that Joy Fletcher and Colleen Brewer join the board as Members at Large. Information on these candidates is in the meeting packet. Julia Sexton proposed acceptance of these new board representatives and Jo Burnham seconded. Congregational approval was unanimous. Full board membership is listed in the meeting packet.

New Nominating Committee Membership:

Guy Thornton will be replacing Joan Carey on the nominating committee. Other current members (Michael Zepeda and Betty Churchman) will continue to serve.

Church Name Change:

The Name Change Committee includes Mary Kirwin, Jo Burnham, Rosalyn Hunter, Peggy Portman and Paul Schattmann.

Throughout the last year or so, the committee has solicited and collected opinions on changing our name from First Jefferson to something else. The committee received opinions both on changing the name and on possible new names from many members of the congregation; various opinions were also published in the *Courier*. The committee also decided that the decisions should be made by paper ballot during a congregational meeting, not just by Email, and that only members of the congregation could vote. Our vote in this congregational meeting covered only the question of whether to change the current name. Further consideration will be required to select a new name if we decide to do so. Frequently asked questions and answers on the name change are included in the meeting packet.

Paul Schattman moved approval of the name change and Colleen Brewer seconded. During a brief discussion, several members of the congregation spoke about why they were for or against changing the name of the church. Paper ballots had been handed out during sign-in of those present; votes of those attending on Zoom were recorded on a paper ballot by the Zoom monitor.

- Ros Hunter spoke in favor and noted that we need a name that reflects our present and future, not past historical characters.
- David Binde spoke in favor, noting that the current name reflects church history that no longer represents us. Like Ros Hunter, he stated that our name should reflect who we are and want to be.
- Joel Bailey spoke in favor and noted that recent social events make it important for us to define ourselves carefully.
- Lorraine Levine spoke in opposition, noting that Jefferson wrote in favor of many of the principles we now support.
- Paul Schattman spoke in favor but noted that Jefferson's ability to free his slaves responsibly was hindered by political actions taken in his time.
- Laurie Mikitka spoke in favor and noted that many people considering membership in the church found the name cumbersome, and that the unity suggest by the combination of First+Jefferson had subsequently been fractured.
- Virginia Thornton (who once worked as a tour guide to Monticello) spoke in favor and suggested that the name of the church should be more reflective of our current location and community commitments.
- Roy Brake spoke in favor and said that while the name was given to the congregation by former members, we should rename ourselves to reflect our current mission.

The ballots were collected, sorted, and counted twice by Jo Burnham and Mary Anne Clark. The results were 32 in favor, 7 against, and 2 abstentions.

Quilt Raffle:

During the ballot counting, a quilt from the Service Auction was raffled and awarded to Jude Olson (who subsequently gifted it to Patrick Gutierrez).

Annie Foerster gave the closing words, noting that the actions of the congregation during the meeting were representative of our energy and participation. The Chalice was extinguished at 1:17 PM.

M. A. Clark, Secretary

President's Report to the Board

Thank you, to all.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

We have had considerable accomplishments since our last congregational session. How fortunate and grateful we are for our incredible audio/video team, enabling our continued in-person services since September. The Board would like to thank Ajia Duerm for recommending Sarah Berel-Harrop to apply for our Director of Religious Education, who was hired in March. Ajia created a curriculum that will be taught in the Fall and Sarah has done an amazing job settling in and getting things done! A vote was conducted during the fall congregational meeting and a recorded decision to change our name passed. The board would like to thank the efforts of all the Name Change committee members, who developed and organized a name suggestion and voting process to lead us to today. The journey continues!

IN PROGRESS:

The Ministerial Search Committee began the process of finding our new contract Minister. I recognize a collective desire among the congregation for the resources to support a full-time minister, which we all continue to work towards. The committee continues with the hiring process, with updates to come. Karl has honed his skills as Membership Director, providing visitors with the information they seek and updates for the board. The board and I appreciate his updates and we look forward to supporting Membership needs for future endeavors. I would like to thank the members of the Stewardship Committee for the efforts in our last campaign, your work is not unnoticed. Most of all, thank you for your pledge, for this would not be possible without it.

THE FUTURE:

A new name for our church deserves a new vision and mission statement. How do we sum up all that is who we are and where we want to go into one sentence? This journey is enlightening, serious, rewarding, and fulfilling--all at the same time. Committees will be forming soon, consider your input a necessity!

In regards to our building, there are a few issues that will need to be prioritized. It has been mentioned for several years; however, it cannot be dismissed much longer. The shingle roof over the R/E wing needs replacing. Elements of inclement weather have breached the roof in a few areas and are causing water damage inside the building during serious storms. Transition from fluorescent to LED light bulbs throughout the church is an ongoing project, saving energy and reducing costs. As the ladies are aware, there are plumbing issues in the restrooms that need attention.

Most sincerely, I would like to thank Reverend Annie Foerster for perseverance, patience, and inspiration. As was scheduled to bid her farewell this past December, the generosity of Reverend Annie radiates. In 2018, Rev. Annie found a weary congregation with considerable concerns of our own survival. She asked us, "Who are you?" and "Who do you want to be?". Rev. Annie listened to our voices, advised us on our possibilities, and together we enacted a plan. Confident and tooled, we put that plan into action, with results to show. As we all know, the pandemic took the world by storm; however, she ensured we persevered. First Jefferson is now broadcasting in-person services, which are all archived and available on YouTube and Facebook. There is certainly more than just the addition of cameras and teleprompters, Rev. Annie's guidance leaves us all more empowered, we are more organized, we are loved. My words simply cannot express the gratitude we have for the gift of your leadership, Reverend Annie Foerster. Please join me in wishing her a safe and relaxing retirement.

In your service,

Roy Brake

Minister's Report to the Congregation
May Congregational Meeting
May 22, 2022

I always think of the May Meeting as the look-ahead meeting and the November Meeting as the wrapping-it-up meeting.

Here we are, voting on a new budget, an optimistic hopeful kind of feeling for what lies ahead. The summer is beckoning—new adventures, new rhythms to our daily lives, new prospects. August is a time that visitors newly settled in the area come to check out churches for the family, schools for the children. And at the end of summer is homecoming—not the fiscal beginning, nor the calendar beginning, but the start of the 'church year.'

So, what are you looking forward to? I'll name a few things I can think of.

- We've done the recent evaluation of the Mission Statement and found it healthy. Now you have a sense of where you want to shore up your dreams (I'll print the cumulative scores of your work in the June Courier).
- You are about to make an historic decision on what to call this community of peace and hope, creating a new era of visioning and work.
- The two new staff members in Religious Education and Choral Direction—Sarah and Michael—are settling in and working well, giving rise to new visions for learning and inspiration.
- Soon you will have a new minister who will fly your banner proudly and bravely.
- New members will follow.
- So will new ideas.

As your thoughts take you into the future, what are you looking ahead for, envisioning for yourself and this community? You deserve the best, so put on your clearest glasses and join the rest of the visionaries who call this place home. I'll be watching from the sidelines, cheering silently as you step out into the future. Thank you for letting me share in your spirit for these past three-plus years.

Membership Report

Service Attendance—In Person

Overall attendance since reopening—weekly averages by month

September 2021—49/week

October 2021—55/week

November 2021—62/week

December 2021—51/week

January 2022—45/week

February 2022—51/week

March 2022—47/week

April 2022—55/week

May 2022—51/week

Weekly Average since re-opening—51/week

Visitor Attendance since reopening

First time visitors—66

Highest one month total—21 in December 2021

Average new visitors—2/week

Online service viewing accumulated totals

YouTube: 29 views/service average

Facebook: 16 views/service average; ranging from a low of 2 up to a high of 37

Public Facebook Page

Social media engagement average for public posts: 70

Membership

Current Members—105

New Members since reopening—4

FIRST JEFFERSON FISCAL 2022-2023 BUDGET
BUDGET ASSUMES WE ARE WITHOUT A MINISTER FOR TWO MONTHS

	CURRENT YEAR FY 21-22	NEXT YEAR FY 22-23	% change from prior year	amount change from prior year	
INCOME					
PLEDGES	\$133,684	\$142,000	6%	\$8,316	
PLATE & GEN DONATIONS	\$5,000	\$7,000	40%	\$2,000	
SHARE THE PLATE	\$1,994	\$2,000	0%	\$6	
SPECIAL EVENTS	\$6,111	\$8,000	31%	\$1,889	
RENT	\$19,818	\$22,000	11%	\$2,182	\$1,833 a month average
OTHER	\$37,680	\$53,000	41%	NTUUC Grant, Reserves	
TOTAL	\$204,287	\$234,000	15%		
		\$29,713	increase		
EXPENSE					
MORTGAGE	\$32,027	\$44,916	40%	\$12,889	
ADMINISTRATOR	\$46,645	\$49,982	7%	\$3,337	
MINISTER	\$43,992	\$36,333	-17%	-\$7,659	assume no minister 2 months
GUEST SPEAKERS	\$2,650	\$4,550	72%	\$1,900	guest speakers to fill in
CHILDCARE	\$0	\$4,000	0%	\$4,000	
DRE	\$12,425	\$19,150	54%	\$6,725	
PIANIST	\$7,800	\$10,886	40%	\$3,086	
CHOIR DIRECTOR	\$3,500	\$5,400	54%	\$1,900	
UTILITIES	\$21,781	\$24,201	11%	\$2,420	
SUPPLIES	\$5,332	\$6,460	21%	\$1,128	
COMMITTEES	\$3,280	\$2,964	-10%	-\$316	
OTHER	\$29,938	\$25,158	-16%	-\$4,780	
Insurance, Janitor, Repairs, Lawncare					
TOTAL	\$209,370	\$234,000	12%	\$24,630	
NET INCOME	-\$5,083	\$0			

ACCOUNT	LAST YEAR		THIS YEAR		
	MAR 31 2021 AMOUNT		MAR 31 2022 AMOUNT	ONE YEAR CHANGE	
Frost Bank	\$91,250		\$76,811	-\$14,439	Insurance Payment & PPP Loan
Endowment Fund	\$106,911		\$109,702	\$2,791	
Mortgage Balance	\$448,135		\$448,135	\$0	

Religious Education Report, Sarah Berel-Harrop, Director of Religious Education

- * The RE program for First Jefferson UU includes in-person offerings for children, youth, and adults
- * RE started on March 20, 2022
- * Number of Youth served - ~ 6 / week consistently
- * Number of children served varies from 1 - 6 / week
- * Number of adults served varies, up to 8 or more /week
- * Much gratitude to those who have committed to teaching or serving on RE council and to Rev. Dr. Aija Duelm who worked so hard to re-open.
- * We invite everyone to attend on June 5, when we will offer our gratitude to the teachers during worship.
- * Additionally, we have collaborated with Westside UU to offer 4-6 grade OWL

Prospective information:

- * Adult programming will continue through the summer, children and youth will have a one-room 'schoolhouse' with activity stations. We are considering re-starting childrens' chapel on a periodic basis.
- * NTUUC is offering an OWL training (to become an OWL teacher) August 5-7, and we encourage folks to look into whether this is a good fit for them
- * We have been in discussion with other congregations about offering OWL as well as Parents as Sexuality Educators Small group ministry (<https://www.uua.org/families/sexuality-educators>)
- * Offering OWL is an important way that we can meet the current moment with facts and approaches to sexuality and bodily autonomy that reflect our values.
- * Fall programming will be similar to the spring programming, although we are looking at adding an adult RE offering that would focus on spirituality for individuals and relationally
- * In order to continue and enhance RE offerings, the main resource we will need are additional people to help with teaching at all levels. Teaching provides an opportunity to build relationship with others on the teaching team as well as questioning and deepening our own spiritual understandings and actions.

Ad Hoc Name Change Committee, Report to the Congregation, May 22, 2022

The Ad Hoc Name Change Committee was established by the authority of the Board of Trustees in December, 2020. The purpose of this committee is: *To take up, research and resolve the issue of whether or not to change the church's name.* The committee established a two-step process.

Step One - Decide by a vote of the membership whether or not to actually change the name of First Jefferson UU Church. This vote was taken in the November 2021 congregational meeting. There were 41 votes cast in total. The results were 32 Yes, 7 No, and 2 Abstentions.

Step Two - Establish our selection process for the new name and facilitate such a selection process. We solicited and received a total of 47 suggestions from the congregation. On April 3 we voted in Round One to narrow the field through a process of elimination. Subsequently, we voted five more times in Rounds Two through Six, both in-person at church and via an online poll. Round Six, the final elimination round on May 8, established the two finalists to present at our congregational meeting on May 22. We will present a motion that states, more or less:

“On behalf of the Name Change Committee, I move that the congregation vote to select the new name of the church. The two finalists, having been selected through a process of elimination over the course of six rounds of voting by the congregation, are:

- All Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist
- First Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Worth”

We will adhere to the following rules:

In accordance with the bylaws, a quorum of 25% of the membership is present.

Use of a paper ballot and ballot box for those attending in person.

For those attending virtually on Zoom, register your vote with the Board secretary.

A simple majority of all ballots cast will decide the outcome.

After the vote is taken and the new name is established, the ad hoc committee will continue to meet. The purpose going forward is to work on the myriad details of implementing our new name, including but not limited to legal requirements, signage, and publicity.

Respectfully submitted,
Jo Burnham, Ros Hunter, Mary Kirwin, Peggy Portman, Paul Schattman
namechange@firstjefferson.org

Many thanks to Church Administrator Karl Thibodeaux, committee member ex officio, for his excellent support of this process. We appreciate you, Karl!

