



**Unitarian Universalists of Southern Delaware  
Board of Trustees Planning Meeting  
January 29, 2024**

In attendance: Paul Barnette, Donna Davis, Carol Huckabee, Beth Law, Linda Marsden, Jane Miller, Richard Wheeler, Rev. Heather Rion Starr  
Guests: Ellen Loewy, Gary Schmidt, Kent Sprunger, Don Peterson

**Check In and Chalice Lighting**

- I. Call to Order- Paul Barnette called the meeting to order at 3:42 pm.
- II. Approve Agenda- A motion to approve the revised agenda was made by Carol Huckabee and seconded by Beth Law. The vote was unanimous to approve.
- III. Items for Action:
  - a. Review/Approve January 14 Planning Meeting Minutes- A motion to approve the revised minutes was made by Linda Marsden and seconded by Jane Miller. The vote was unanimous to approve.
- IV. Items for Discussion:
  - a. Rev. Heather's Sabbatical - Rev. Heather: Rev. Heather is proposing to take one month of sabbatical leave this October. She is also considering taking April-July 2026. At some point we will explore having a committee to educate the congregation about the sabbatical process. The Board voted to affirm Rev. Heather's sabbatical request for October 2025. The vote was unanimous.
  - b. Proposed UUA Congregational Study/Action Issues - Rev. Heather: There are three proposed issues that our Denominational Affairs committee affirms moving forward.
  - c. Hospitality Committee - All: The Board voted unanimously to rename the Kitchen Committee the Hospitality Committee. The organization chart and the website will be updated.
  - d. Board Trustee description- All: The Board reviewed the Board Trustee description and feel it doesn't need changing or updating.
  - e. Sanctuary Question - Gary Schmidt: Don Peterson will ask his ACLU contacts if they can come to Sussex County and talk to houses of worship about their concerns. Donna Davis will see if LRAC is working on this issue. Carol Huckabee will reach out to the Safer Congregations Committee for their input. Once we have input from these people we will develop a list of resources and contacts that we will be able to share. In the meantime, for immediate needs, La Esperanza should be contacted.

- f. Review of first “Coffee and Conversation with the Board - All: Board members felt it went well and we will continue to have the meetings monthly.
  - g. Update on UUSD Auction - Paul: Several meetings have occurred and the auction is in good hands.
- V. The meeting was adjourned at 4:41pm.

Executive Session

Next Board Business Meeting: Tuesday, February 11th at 10:00 am (In-Person/Hybrid).

Respectfully submitted-

Beth Law

BOT Secretary