

# VUU Board Retreat Agenda

Saturday, Sept. 19 10a – 3p

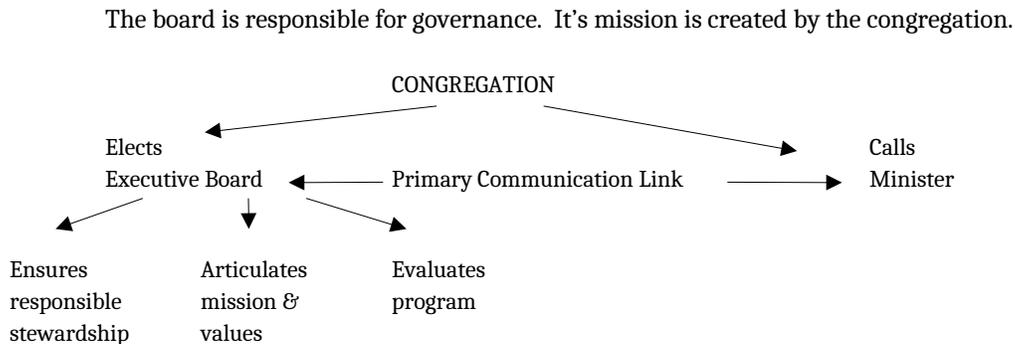
**Attendees:** Rev. Fred Wooden, DeeAnne McClenahan, Debi Grande, Pam Swan, Kevin Guhman, Linda Stenholm, Mary Wolf-Francis, Libby Bean

**Opening Words:** One of the many things he learned at the UUA Interim Ministry Training was that we need to be okay with loving with uncertainty. It is both a gift and an [opening]. We will read and discuss a book that Linda Horton gave him upon his arrival for his first visit with us in person. Title: How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going by Susan Berman.

**Introductions:** What's your role on the Board; What is something no one else knows about you?; What are your hopes for today?

**Breakout Bingo and Sharing:** Provided by Debi Grande

**Working Lunch and Discussion:** What do we do as a board?;



What makes a healthy board?

Cognizance of congregations concerns;  
People with communication, technical, and facilitation skills;  
Willingness to learn and take training;

The board's job includes financial stewardship (Executive Board)

Membership is the staff's job (Minister)

Members should provide feedback about concerns to the staff

Lora Gustafson was introduced to DeeAnne. She has lots of good experience and has already been here for a few weeks working with Matt to learn about office systems.

Rev. Fred reminds us:

Question if it is a policy or a mission issue?

Remember – staff is on payroll: it is their job to remind us, if we ask, when something they're being asked to do is NOT

their job.

Is it urgent or just important?

Fred has a Facebook page we're welcome to check out.

Ends statements: See the What Guides Us document at <https://www.vuu.org/about/board/vision-ends-for-vuu-2016-17/>

**Our Vision & Ends Statements** (approved by VUU Board on May 24, 2016, based on input from the congregation)

***We are a vibrant, inclusive community, inspired by many spiritualities and theologies, caring for one another through life's challenges, and bending the moral arc of the universe toward justice.***

1. We challenge each person to discover, experience, and be transformed by the deep and mysterious.
2. We cultivate our inclusive community through radical hospitality and nurturing.
3. We prioritize intergenerational experience through increased investment in the faith formation of the next generation.
4. We engage in partnerships to counter systems of oppression and create a just, sustainable and healthy world.
5. We are an innovative congregation, growing Unitarian Universalism in covenant with our UUA partners.

Some of the ways we fulfill the Vision is to

- offer FUUnd events
- offer lots of groups open to all
- opening our congregation to I-Help guests
- our many social justice studies and actions
- collaborating with VIP and AZIPL and AZ Interfaith groups

How do we open up the opportunities we offer to others?  
Are we truly inclusive? How can we be more so?

Might we be interested in working with Mary's non-profit - ICM? ([Sandra@ISMaz.org](mailto:Sandra@ISMaz.org))

### **Transitions Team and Interim Ministry**

The Transitions Committee is comprised of Jamilla Miqbel, Jenni Echols, Linda Horton, and Evan Anderson.

Rev. Fred wants us to reference the book, Governance and Ministry by David Hotchkiss - for discussion beginning in January, 2021.

He will and wants us to utilize appreciative inquiry and other gifts of leadership skills.

VUU's Leadership Development Committee will need to be integrated into this whole transition process.

Our connections and heritage (our past) will need especially to be attended to; and our sense of betrayal from having lost 3 beloved leaders.

"We don't have much time, the work is hard, so we much move more slowly - this is pastoral work.

We should expect that Rev. Fred might 'piss us off' sometimes but that's his job.

Linda Horton mentioned the committee's awareness that worship services can talk place anywhere; that VUU has a unique terminology; that her job is to 'calendar" and assure that the calendar is adhered to and be guided by Rev. Fred.

Jim Nielson was asked to put together an "Ask the Transition Team (TT)" opportunity. Preferably with something like Google and Google Meet, etc.

Just 'showing up' is the main thing TT will have to do.



