

First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia Board of Trustees October & November Update

Greetings from the First Unitarian Board of Trustees!

As we move through the fall and the Thanksgiving season is upon us, the board continues to get to know each other and we're all are eager to work with the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

We dedicated a block of time at our October meeting to reviewing Working Groups. Working groups are established by the board to help carry out our responsibilities to the congregation. Currently, we have a few working groups outlined in our policy manual that are not active and some that are active but lack a clear charge from the board. Richard Frey, from the Property Working Group and Luana Goodwin, from the Development Working Group, joined us to share some of the history and priorities of both groups. We had a productive conversation that made plain the complexity of the issues and the need for a thoughtful process to define and clarify the work of these groups. While this may not sound like exciting work, it gets at questions of how we want to function as an institution and in community with one another. We continued this discussion during our November board meeting, and are in the process of forming a subcommittee to examine how all working groups can function more productively going forward.

During our November meeting, the board had our first opportunity to meet Rev. Allison Cornish as a group and to discuss her proposal to affiliate with First Unitarian as a community minister. After hearing about her experience as both a parish minister and a local leader in interfaith climate justice activism, we discussed how her community ministry with us might take shape, and what Rev. Cornish could bring to our congregation. More information is available in the email we sent last week, and in the coming weeks the board will be providing additional opportunities to meet Rev. Cornish, learn about her proposal, and provide feedback.

Yours in faith & service,

First Unitarian Board of Trustees

PS: Anyone is always welcome to attend Board meetings! The board meets on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30pm on the ground floor of the church. A link to our agenda will be in the e-beacon and posted in the lobby the week before.

