

UUA Socially Responsible Investment Committee – Minutes

24 Farnsworth Street
Boston, MA 02210
Room 315
September 1, 2015

Members present: David Stewart, Chair, Tim Brennan, Vonda Brunsting, Kristin Faust, Larry Ladd, Kathy Mulvey, and Marva Williams

Members absent: None

Staff present: Susan Helbert

1. Minutes from meeting on June 9, 2015 - Stewart

Motion 1: To adopt minutes from June 9th meeting without amendment. Moved, Ladd seconded, Brennan, all approved.

2. GA report back – Stewart, Brennan

- Session went very well with a lot of positive feedback.
- Need to build out more materials and tools for booth both from the UUA and outside organizations such as ICCR and SIF. Highlight one or two congregations involved in SRI. Promote matching program.
- Treasurer’s panel provided a very robust report. Went through each clause of the business resolution and explained what the UUA is doing in response to each.
- Trying to put together a webinar with OikoCredit to encourage individuals and congregations to participate in the UUA Matching Program.

3. Community Investing – Faust, Williams

- Discuss CI assessment report from 2013
 - Reviewed the 2013 Community Investment assessment report.

Action item 1: Faust and Williams to further review report and see if risks are in line with expectations/policy and to determine what a reasonable risk measurement is.

- Determine what future assessment reports should look like
 - Keep it simple and straightforward; determine what committee members can contribute to report. AERIS is a potential tool.

Action item 2: Brennan to distribute existing Community Investing Policy and list of investments with terms to committee.

- Goals for Community Investing portfolio
 - Shouldn't limit or focus on specific sector.
 - Work on getting congregations more involved in matching program.
 - Research the requirements for a CDFI to be on the SIF list?
 - Research disclosure on CDFI federally insured and uninsured.
 - Segregate our CDFI list into insured and uninsured investments.

- Determine goal for amount we should invest in FY16
 - Should be organic not hard lined.
 - Have already approved a commitment of \$50k to VOICE, subject to review of the actual loan documents, and \$50k to Lucy Stone Co-op.

- Columbus, OH GA
 - Should have a place for the Columbus, OH CDFI's invested in to join the panel at General Assembly.
 - Consider having local congregations that have made matching investment join the panel.
 - The National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions is doing work around immigration reform and trying to do micro-loans into the immigrant community. Since this is one of the priorities of the UUA it would be beneficial to see if they have credit unions in Columbus we could potentially invest in.

- Discuss Portland, OR potential CDFI investments – Williams
 - Current CDFI's are to fund low cost loans.
 - Explore a potential separate CDFI amount concentrating on double bottom line, investment and return.

Action item 3: Williams to reach out to Albina, Innovative Change and, Portland Housing to determine if they are accepting investments.

Action item 4: Stewart to contact congregations in Portland to see if they would be interested in participating in our matching program.

Action item 5: Faust to research CDFI's in Columbus, OH.

Action item 6: Brunsting to contact Cathie Mahon at the National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions.

4. Advocacy – Brennan

- Discuss focus for FY16
 - Attended NY meeting of ICCR climate leadership group and Ceres climate change campaign meeting.
 - Met with Tim Smith regarding strategy
 - Will be going back to a lot of the companies we filed with last year.
 - Will again file at ConocoPhillips and possibly Chevron with resolution where reserves are to exclude barrels of oil that are not economically producible in which to determine any senior executive's incentive compensation.
 - Lobbying and political expenditure will continue to be a focus.
 - Will see if there are other ways to get companies to support changes at the state and federal level for discrimination of LGBT. Will reach out to the Human Rights Campaign to see if we can help in any way.
 - NY Proxy Access program is still moving forward, they will be re-filing at 65 companies. We will continue to offer support to them wherever possible.

5. Proxy voting update – Brunsting

- Guidelines have been updated and are to be reviewed one more time before finalized.
- ISS votes our proxies based on our instructions.
- ISS brings to our attention anything new that should be on our radar.

Action item 7: Brunsting and Mulvey to review the recommendations that ISS develops based on UUA instructions.

6. Climate tool kit – Brunsting

- SEIU partnered with the Responsible Endowments Coalition and the Initiative for Responsible Investment at Harvard and received a grant to build a toolkit to help small investors look at climate control in their own portfolio.
- Toolkit will be launched at an event during climate week in New York on September 28th at the Surdna Foundation.
- It takes a governance approach to looking at your portfolio. Asks the question, what are you trying to accomplish? Based on the answer, it asks how you want to look at the risk in your portfolio, investment opportunities and then engagement that you can do. It then takes you through the process of how to do that.
- Potentially share with ICCR and link to the UUCEF website.

Action item 8: Brunsting to provide a link to toolkit to the committee.

Action item 9: Brunsting to reach out to Rob Lake to see if he would be interested in doing a webinar on how to use the toolkit.

7. Overview of relationship between Socially Responsible Investing Committee (SRIC) and the Investment Committee (IC) – Brennan, Stewart
 - IC meetings are open for all to attend to facilitate a full understanding of what's on their schedule/radar.
 - IC has a strong fiduciary responsibility, will consider mission of SRIC providing it doesn't create a fiduciary liability.
 - SRIC sets the screening that investment managers follow for non-co-mingled funds.