

UUA Socially Responsible Investment Committee – Minutes

24 Farnsworth Street
Boston, MA 02210
Room 315
August 11, 2016

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

Members absent: None

Staff present: Susan Helbert

1. Minutes from meeting on May 12, 2016 – Stewart

Motion 1: To approve minutes from May 12th meeting without amendment.
Moved, Stewart seconded, Santini, all approved.

2. Discussion on Investment Committee Meeting – Stewart

- Performance has been suffering due to asset allocation.
- The working group will hold a meeting to discuss alternatives to the way the Investment and Socially Responsible Investing Committee interact with each other. Alternatives will be discussed with both committees to determine impact and get feedback.
- One consideration is to integrate the IC and SRIC policies but maintain separate committees.
- Prepare a joint report to the Board of Trustees.
- Need to think about and detail what the committee does and how it's done.
- Establish and document process for due diligence for community investments.

Action item 1: Brunsting to send out link to Steve Lydenberg's Investment Integration Project and paper by Rob Lake on how individuals can integrate their values into their investing process.

Action item 2: Stewart and Mulvey to work on joint report to the Board.

Action item 3: Brennan to ask NEPC to create a chart of SRI in the portfolio.

3. Tactics for Engagement – Stewart

- Need to be mindful of rising issues within the faith based community.
- Enhance communications so constituents are aware that our investment goals are aligned with social justice goals.

4. **FY17 no-business year - Stewart**

- FY17 is a no-business year for General Assembly; no business resolutions will be presented.

5. **Improved Communications with constituents – Stewart**

- Need to find ways to more effectively and timely communicate the work of the committee to our congregations. Possibilities include more focus on social media and adding messages and/or appendices to statements.
- Button to be added to website to sign up for feed of all Socially Responsible Investing articles/information.

Action item 4: Brennan to check and see if we can add statement messages or appendices to statements.

Action item 5: Brennan to see if a member of Social Witness or Outreach would consider attending the SRI meetings and communicating out about it.

Action item 6: Brennan to contact Brian Brumley to gauge interest in writing blogs for the advocacy work.

6. **Community Investments – Stewart**

- Two New Orleans, LA CDFI's being considered for investment;
 - Liberty Bank – 50k
 - Locations in 11 states with 8 in Louisiana.
 - Outstanding Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) ratings for the past 22 years.
 - Members of National Community Investment Fund.
 - FDIC insured.
 - Hope Credit Union - 25k
 - A conglomeration of both a non-profit CDFI and a credit union. Currently exploring investment options for both.
 - FDIC insured.
 - They're very interested in helping us organize a tour of their community development work during General Assembly 2017.

Motion 2: To conditionally approve an additional investment of \$25,000.00 to Hope Credit Union based on Faust's approval of their financial reports. Moved, Stewart, seconded, Mulvey, all approved.

Motion 3: To conditionally approve an investment of \$50,000.00 to Liberty Bank based on William's approval of their financial reports. Moved, Stewart, seconded, Brunsting, all approved.

VOTED: That the Unitarian Universalist Association, on behalf of and for the benefit of the Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment Fund, LLC, invest \$25,000.00 of the assets of the UUCEF, LLC into Hope Credit Union and \$50,000.00 of the assets of the UUCEF, LLC into Liberty Bank on the terms set forth in the offering documentation therefore submitted by Hope Credit Union and Liberty Bank to Timothy Brennan, treasurer of the Unitarian Universalist Association, subject to such changes and amendments therein as he may determine to be appropriate; and

VOTED: To authorize the Treasurer, Timothy Brennan, and the Chief Operating Officer, Harlan Limpert, each individually, acting singly or together, to execute and deliver documents to effect the foregoing, all with such terms and conditions as are approved by the signatory, with such officer's signature being conclusive evidence of approval; and

VOTED: To ratify and approve all that the Treasurer, Timothy Brennan, has done or may do in connection with said investment.

Action item 7: Faust and Williams to create a template for Phil Murray to report CDFI information including maturity date.

Action item 8: Faust and Williams to update the Community Development Match Program Application.

7. Update on GA – Stewart

- Israel/Palestine divestment resolution garnered 55% of the vote which fell short of the two-thirds required to pass.
- The five companies the resolution addressed had already been sold from the common endowment fund.

Action item 9: Stewart will be preparing a program proposal for GA17.

Action item 10: Faust to contact Joan Cudhea from San Diego and the congregations in Madison as potential panelists.

8. Humanizing the GA booth – Stewart

- Design new handouts:
 - Five Things You Can Do
 - Our Community Investments with listing of CDFI Banks and Credit Unions to invest in
 - SIF brochures
 - New Community Development Match Program application

Action item 11: Williams to contact the Black Lives Matter folks regarding our investments in black owned banks through community investments. Ask them to promote it through their network.

9. Selective investments – Stewart

- Discussed interest in potentially offering a version of the Rhumblin Fund to individual investors.
- Expect to face heavy legal and regulatory factors; expenses could be preventative.
- Would only be viable as a mutual fund and need a large amount of seed money to breakeven upfront.
- Could impact the UUCEF expenses.
- Discussion is tabled until working group has completed its analysis of both the Investment and Socially Responsible Investing Committee.

Action item 12: Santini to provide contact to discuss pros and cons of offering a mutual fund product for individuals as a religious organization.

10. Increasing CDFI and/or Additional Investment Allocation– Stewart

- Many organizations have a CDFI range of 1% to 5%. Would like to ask for increase in CI investment percentage and/or a separate percentage to be allocated to additional types of investing such as impact investing.
- Discussion is tabled until working group has completed its analysis of both the Investment and Socially Responsible Investing Committee.
- Need to review Community Investment policy.

Action item 13: Faust to breakdown the non-bank CDFI investments into categories to describe the types we currently hold.

Action item 14: Williams to breakdown the CDFI bank investments into categories to describe the types we hold.

Action item 15: Brennan to distribute CDFI policy.

Action item 16: Brennan to contact Taquienna Boston regarding anti-racism/anti-oppression/multi-cultural potential training scheduling for committee.

Action item 17: Mulvey and Brunsting to review and update the proxy voting guidelines.

Next Meeting Date
November 17, 2016