

# Governance Advisory Team Annual Report 2018-19

Submitted by Tom Reischl, Tim Richards, Sandy Simon

The Governance Advisory Team (GAT) is a standing committee that advises the Board of Trustees on governance issues. The GAT is also charged with helping train new Board members in UUAA governance and with presenting information to the congregation that will help them understand our governance structures and procedures. This standing committee is new this year and had its first meeting in March, 2018. Elizabeth LaPorte was an initial member but resigned in April 2018 due to family needs. Sandy, Tom and Tim began working together in May.

It has been a busy year! Our work included:

- Met with the previous BOT to get suggestions for helpful governance training topics.
- Met with Erik Stalhandske (President) and Laura Bollettino (VP) to discuss how the committee will work with the BOT. We planned to meet with the BOT quarterly to discuss selected topics.
- Met with the new BOT for a discussion on 'Decision Making'.
- Researched Committees on Ministry and helped draft a working description of the new UUAA Shared Ministries Team.
- Researched rules and guidelines for proxy voting and absentee voting. Held a forum on proxy voting in the Fall and are actively providing information leading to a vote on new proxy / absentee bylaws at the June 2<sup>nd</sup> Congregational Meeting.
- Researched whether other congregations hold open or closed Board meetings. (All are open)
- Researched guidelines for congregations taking stands on big issues or working thru decisions like sanctuary. This is an ongoing project—to develop UUAA guidelines for congregational resolutions and large decisions. The goal is to begin a dialog on this in the Fall of 2019.
- Jointly with the Board of Trustees, held a Forum on "Large Congregation Governance" in December. The forum was well attended and there was a lot of Q&A. It seemed to help many members better understand decision making and procedures.
- Helped research and answer questions from a congregant about the wisdom of contested elections for board and LDT positions.

Our meetings have often included Erik and/or Laura, which has helped us stay in synch with Board priorities and needs.

In May, 2019, after a year of sharing his deep governance understanding, Tim Richards rotated off of the team and Paul Morris was appointed by the Board to replace Tim, for a three year term.

**Future work:** We are continuing our work on bylaw wording to be voted on at the June 2<sup>nd</sup> congregational meeting and on procedures/ bylaw changes for bring resolutions and large decisions to the congregation for vote. We anticipate taking part in training the new BOT taking office in June. Other items on the list of work outlined by the task force on governance (2016-17) may be prioritized as part of the congregation's 2019-2020 visioning project outcomes.