

# Minutes for the Board Meeting of the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, October 17, 2023

## APPROVED

In attendance (in alphabetical order):

Jeff Becker (guest), Rob Bray, Chris Buice, Bill Cherry, Eddie Chin, AB Coleman, Denise Coleman, Miriam Davis, Frank Floyd (guest), Jack Hulse, Roy Kersey, Heather Kistner, Barbara Lamm, Roy Kersey, Devon Miller, Maddie Kulpa, Claudia Pressley, Mary Rogge, Ken Stephenson, Bella Thomas-Wilson. [02:31]

### **1. Introduction / Chalice Lighting / Covenant [14:15]**

President Eddie Chin lit the candle to open the meeting and Heather Kistner spoke an invocation invoking the light of truth and love.

### **2. Presentation by representatives of Heska Amuna Synagogue [15:25]**

Representatives of Heska Amuna Synagogue, Frank Floyd and Jeff Becker, were called upon for their questions regarding possible indefinite term rental of our space for services and other events. It has been discovered that Heska Amuna has major structural issues in the sanctuary wall possibly requiring substantial repairs or even in the extreme event abandonment of their building. They have been advised not to use their space because of these issues. Frank opened by asking how much members of TVUUC were aware of their proposal and what sentiments had been expressed. He expressed his gratitude at the welcoming discussions he had had with Claudia and wanted to reach out to the Board for additional information. Eddie asked about the interactions Heska Amuna leadership had had with FBI, police and other authorities about threats and potential violence. We learned that every synagogue, Heska Amuna included, has a patrol car presence during services and additional security measures in place. Fortunately, Knoxville has been particularly quiet in this regard. If this arrangement works out, Heska Amuna will arrange for a security presence. Concern was expressed about the possible effects stemming from the Israel/Hamas conflict, but the foremost concern related to possible far-right extremists. This concern is shared by both congregations. Bill asked about any additional concerns, and Claudia added details regarding the usage on Saturday of the sanctuary, the Greg McKenzie Fellowship Hall, the small RE kitchen, and the Lizzie Crozier French Room. After the service, the Heska Amuna congregants enjoy a kosher lunch together. One possible issue would arise if the need for a memorial service occurs at a time when Heska Amuna activities would normally take place. In the past year, we have used the sanctuary just twice for a memorial service on a Saturday morning, so there seems there is little prospect for frequent conflicts. Principally, the concerns Claudia has heard refer to space usage and the rental fee structure. Bill asked about insurance costs. Frank indicated that the insurance they currently have could be used for the utilization of our space. The principal valuables are the two Torah scrolls that could be locked down and secured on site. Frank said that they had not yet explored the issue of liability, but would do so. Claudia's experience indicates that riders can be written relatively easily and at reasonable cost for additional spaces, facilities, and valuable religious items. Bill suggested that, if an additional rider becomes necessary, Heska Amuna could make up the cost difference. Other issues are that Heska Amuna is an aging structure with older HVAC equipment, lacking handicap access. Some offers had been made for the structure, but there was not a sufficient number of congregants to agree to a sale, 71% had favored a sale, 75% is required for a sale. Because of this state of limbo, Frank said they wanted to get a picture of what alternatives and the costs involved to present their congregation a realistic picture of possibilities. He indicated that the 75% number might be achieved in an upcoming congregational meeting, likely in December. Repair costs are in his opinion larger than the congregation can

muster. Heather asked if Heska Amuna envisions a cloistered use of our facilities or would there be some openness to interactive opportunities or a learning platform for additional socializing. Jeff Becker suggested they would be very open to such possibilities. The membership profile included 150 units, singles, families, with an average age of about 65. They no longer have a religious school and have yet to regain the threshold necessary to sustain religious education, though sporadic attendance of younger people is on the increase. Average Saturday attendance is 30-35. During the High Holidays, it may reach 100. The question of the patrol car lights came up, whether the lights would be flashing. The police van is an unmarked vehicle with lighting capability, but not lit up. Driveway accessibility was discussed, and the major difference between Heska Amuna and TVUUC was brought up that we have accessibility both from the front and the rear. They have had occasional fender benders and minor rear end collisions in front of their property where they only have access from Kingston Pike. Over the years sporadic threats have come into the synagogue typically by phone. Other minor events, such as a rock thrown through a rear window by a vagrant, did not seem to be anti-Semitic, but rather minor vandalism. Their congregants would likely prefer a police presence on TVUUC property. It was deemed that there would likely be little or no conflict on football Saturdays because Heska Amuna usage times would not extend beyond 1:30. We do sell parking spaces on football Saturdays with the proceeds supporting the RE program and Justice Library, but even when UT plays Alabama the situation would be manageable. Claudia said she could check with the Teen Center next door to see if some use of their lot, which is connected to ours in the back and which has a sidewalk connection to our church entrance, could be arranged, if needed. Claudia mentioned also that the security presence at neighboring Temple Beth El from the Knox County Sheriffs Department is vigilant and occasionally has informed us of suspicious activity near our building on Friday nights and asked whether Heska Amuna and Beth El had been in touch about security measures. The matter of possible time conflicts in the Chanukah / Christmas season was touched upon, but seemed amenable to mutually satisfactory adjustments with mutual consultation with a calendar. Our Social Action events suggested possible opportunities for cooperation because Heska Amuna initiatives in this direction had not been sustained. Heska Amuna representatives welcomed the visible presence of a TVUUC sexton in the lobby on Saturdays when no other events were taking place because he could lock the building after everybody had gathered. The meeting concluded on a hopeful note that progress and an agreement could be reached. [48:42]

### **3. Announcements**

[59:10]After a brief pause, the meeting resumed and Eddie introduced the Youth Representatives joining the Board: Jack Hulse and Devon Miller. Ken Stephenson has been working on the Minister's Evaluation, scheduled to be complete by early November. He announced that Jeff's September minutes were incomplete because of his illness, but that approval would take place online when they were provided to the Board soon. The Board will be undertaking a Ruth Martin Memorial Chili Night that will be scheduled via the Auction. He reminded Board Members to update their Board Member on Duty (BMOD) appearances. [62:29]

### **4. Minister's Report**

Chris provided the Minister's Report for October, 2023 summarizing his activities and the recent activities and events in the church:

"Minister's Report for October 2023

#### **Public Ministry**

- When I started the ministry at TVUUC in 2001 the idea that we would have a Unitarian mayor in Knoxville who was a visible presence in the Pride Parade was unthinkable. On December 16 it will be my privilege to give the invocation for the inauguration of **Indya Kincannon** to her second term as the Mayor of the City of Knoxville. We also have a member of the church, city councilor **Seema Singh**, who will be running for the Tennessee legislature for the seat currently occupied by Gloria Johnson. This carries on the tradition of Bee DeSelm, Mark Harmon and others.
- This month I had another guest column in the Knoxville News Sentinel. The column was also picked up by the Tennessean (Nashville) and the Leaf Chronicle (Clarksville.) As always I am identified as "minister of the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist

Church.”<https://www.knoxnews.com/story/opinion/2023/09/29/opinion-opposition-and-competition-strengthen-democracy/70934332007/>

- If you are interested in tracking where my guest columns have been published over time I found a website that is doing it for us. [Articles by Chris Buice's Profile | Austin American-Statesman, Knoxville News Sentinel, The Tennessean Journalist | Muck Rack](#)
- I was invited to speak at a rally organized by Students Demand Action for the opening of the Smith and Wesson headquarters in Maryville. A story by local TV station WATE was picked up by MSN includes statements from me. [Gun safety advocates protest opening of Smith & Wesson facility in Maryville \(msn.com\)](#)
- The minister's blog got 369 views in the month of September. If you haven't every checked it out I invite you to click on this link [The Tao of Tennessee | Philosophical musings from the Tennessee Valley \(wordpress.com\)](#)
- I attended the first **Justice Knox** Clergy Caucus of the year and will be attending monthly meetings to strengthen our congregation's commitment to community organizing and systemic change.

### ***Denominational Service***

- I will be out of the office from Wednesday October 18 through Monday October 23 attending the Unitarian Universalist Association Board of Trustees meeting being held in Atlanta, Georgia. Afterwards I will spend two days visiting family. If you are interested in attending the UUA Board meeting online you can do so by registering at this link. [Join the Board Meeting Virtually | UUA.org](#)
- This month I was invited to have a role in the ordinations of two new ministers who come from TVUUC, **Meagan Henry** (now serving First Unitarian Congregational Society Brooklyn) and **Tina DeYoe** (now serving the Unitarian Church of Los Alamos.) Both Meagan and Tina were adult leaders working with the youth group when they were here. This outcome reflects some of the unseen work of ministry, mentoring the next generation of ministers

### ***Welcoming Congregation LGBTQIA activism***

- This month our congregation hosted the Interfaith Pride Service (after a mishap in Temple Beth El's air conditioning meant moving the event.) **Carolyn Rogers** was one of the co-chairs for this event. Our music director **David Asbury** directed the interfaith choir. **Lynn Hixson** gave a TVUUC Statement of Inclusion. I offered a prayer/meditation. Special thanks to those who rallied at the last minute for host duties including **Eddie Chin** (host/greeter) **Bill Dabbs** and **Jeff Kovac** (sound) **Ted Jones** (lead usher) and many who spontaneously helped with organizing the reception.
- **Lynn Hixson** offered the crucial leadership needed to guarantee we had a place in the Pride Parade this year (Last year David Massey canceled our participation because the new rules seemed onerous and there was little time to get our congregation in compliance with those rules.) Even though the weather was rainy we had a great turn out. **Chloie Airoidi-Watters**, **Matthew Blondell**, **Rob Bray** and **Alison Wood Bray**, **Kaci Clark**, **Trevor Palmer**, **Meris Porter**, **Carol Villaverde**, **Frony Ward** and **Allan Morgan**. I am especially appreciative of **Eddie Chin** for his high visibility, front and center leadership, our president leading by example.
- **Mark Mohundro** was instrumental in organizing a booth at Pride Fest staffed by volunteers from the East Tennessee Unitarian Universalist Cluster, a great example of TVUUC helping to foster cooperation among our area UU congregations.

### ***8th Principle Action***

- The art show last month featuring works from the collection of **Sylvia Peters** made up of the work of African American artists was completely in alignment with our congregation's commitment to dismantle racism and other oppressions. I am also circulating the Call to Artists through Knoxville Interdenominational Christian Ministers Association (KICMA) in hopes of diversifying the kinds of artists who participate in our shows. Thanks to the Art Committee for their leadership **Kenneth Moffett**, chair.
- We will continue our church tradition of celebrating Diwali in cooperation with members of the Hindu Community Center with a service based on the theme "Hindu Universalism" with the cooperation of TVUUCers **Nathan Paki**, **Seema Singh** and **Haresh Mirani**. I am also working on an online forum on the same theme with **Tina Gandhi** a Unitarian ministerial student I met at the **Unitarian College** in England where I taught this summer. Tina grew up Hindu and considers herself to be a Hindu Unitarian. She is currently serving as a ministerial intern at Walmesly Unitarian Chapel. This is the first of

hopefully many events to come from my sabbatical time in May strengthening international UU connections.

- This month I will be attending conflict mediation training with members of KICMA as part of the city's strategy to enlist clergy in violence prevention and reduction initiatives.

### **Staff Supervision**

- I have encouraged our staff to participate in the professional development experiences offered by their respective professional organizations. This month **David Asbury** showed us some of what he learned at the **Association of Unitarian Universalist Ministries** conference in the service he held last Sunday featuring protest songs. These conferences are especially important for keeping abreast of the latest music emerging in our denomination. David has set a goal to recruit some church members to join him at next year's conference. He is also establishing a Justice Choir that can perform for various rallies for justice causes.
- This month both **Catherine Farmer Loya** and **Mark Mohundro** attended the **Liberal Religious Educators Conference** (LREDA) which contains training to support all religious education programming including New Membership processes. Special attention at this conference was given to how to be a Welcoming Congregation in a culture where state governments are increasingly hostile members of the LGBTQIA community.
- The weekly schedule for supervision includes Staff Meetings on Wednesday mornings and individual supervision with my direct reports - The Director of Finance and Operations, the Director of Music and the Director of Lifespan Religious Education."

In response to a question from Bill, Chris confirmed that the East Tennessee Cluster is formally defunct, but the supportive and cooperative relationships between these congregations continues to prosper, though a previous Board had recommended curtailing work with the East Tennessee Cluster. The Knoxville Mediation Association is organizing the training program that Chris participated in. There has been consistent demand in the congregation for such work. [73:40]

### **5. Systems Leadership, Objectives Key Results =(OKR's), Strategic Planning Committee [74:58]**

Maddie started off by 're-presenting' the information already provided by AB and Denise on behalf of the Strategic Planning Committee that put together this set of recommendations to the Board for future organization of church activities. By consulting UUA documents on the subject, she emphasized she was trying to present a format more easily understood. Her focus today is on Systems Leadership. The remaining topics will be discussed at future Board Meetings. She began by defining some crucial terms:

- **OKR** is an acronym for **Objectives** and **Key Results**.
- **Objectives** are the goals you want to achieve. They ask "Where do you want to go?" Objectives are actionable, aspirational and meaningful.
- **Key Results** are how you'll achieve your goal. They ask "How will we know we're getting there?" Key Results are focused, measurable, and ambitious. Key Results are **OUTCOMES**.

Strategic Planning envisions a 'big picture' approach to solving issues confronting the church and church leadership, assuring that solutions of each individual issue are addressed with an eye to overall church goals and core values. It can also help integrate church members with their respective skills, knowledge and impetus into finding solutions. It ideally adds flexibility and adaptivity into our problem-solving. It should increase communication within our complex organization to advance understanding across our entire community of issues previously confined to 'information silos' - helping everybody see how each piece fits in with the whole. This will advance alignment and consolidation of our activities, which in turn will help the community experience a sense of progress and accomplishment. From this experience, we expect church community members to increasingly join in what they sense as progress toward a common cause. [79:20] Tracking progress in **Key Results** is perhaps best encapsulated in the mantra:

“I will <Objective> as measured by <Key Result> using <Initiative>.”

The **Objectives** are the goals. The **Key Results** specify 3 to 5 trackable milestones. The **Initiatives** are the methods, activities, etc. used to reach the milestones. This procedure has helped Maddie and her group to clarify and focus their collaborative efforts toward the ultimate desired ends. It helps prioritize activities in a complex enterprise setting aside minor issues that can distract from advancement. [81:57]

Previewing discussion in next month’s Board meeting, Maddie detailed how a software program called Microsoft Viva Goals helps strengthen and regularize the tracking of progress. Viva Goals is integrated with the Microsoft Teams software already used by the Board. [83:34] She offered this example of how this OKR framework had been used in the RE Program:

- **Goal:** Improve TVUUC’s ability to focus to Connect Generations and initiatives
- **Objective:** Improved communication between Board / Church Leadership and RE Leadership Team
- **Key Results:**
  - 1) Include DRE in Board communications
  - 2) Ensure Board / Leadership are aware of all RE events and programs
  - 3) Include Youth representatives in all Board business
- **Initiatives/Projects:**
  - 1) Add DRE to [board@tvuuc.org](mailto:board@tvuuc.org) mail list
  - 2) Designate time slot for DRE report at each Board meeting
  - 3) Share with Board how to find RE news, events, and information already available to RE families
  - 4) Create communication guidelines between Board and Youth reps

She concluded by reiterating the recommendation that TVUUC adopt this framework, extending it beyond RE to the panoply of activities under the Strategic Planning Committee and Program Council. [86:15]

Further discussion clarified how coordination and efficiency might increase in this way. If, for example, if it were found that Buildings and Grounds and some other initiative were doing similar things, then coordinating the activities of both would be time and energy saving. Bill asked questions about how this transformation will take place. Who, specifically, beyond ‘the Board in general’, will be charged with assuring these things are done. Clear responsibility of some individual, a leader, is required for the results to come to fruition. “A presentation, as acceptable and laudable as this one is, remains a presentation.” Consensus emerged that, once this framework was approved, detailed implementation with assignment of responsibilities needed to follow. AB noted that TVUUC gets a substantial non-profit discount for Microsoft Viva Goals. Heather predicted some initial growing pains in moving to this new procedure as it involved change which will place some additional burdens on individuals as we convert to a new system. The Board is charged with policy governance, but the matters Maddie has outlined are not policy as such, but more procedural in nature. Long range planning under the purview of the Strategic Planning Committee may ultimately involve the Board more intensely. Chris observed that the new system can identify items of a limited scope that will encourage integration of more church community members into our affairs. Heather spoke of these as ‘sprints’ - short term limited goals in service of a longer-term process. The software documents this variety of activity in a coordinated manner. AB reviewed the winnowing of the **Bucket List** (the sum of all things people in the church want to accomplish) to a focused set of four **Objectives** to start with and assignment of tasks under this heading. [100:06] Claudia highlighted the advantages of well-defined, restricted and time bound goals. If this is done online, it also saves her time taken up with numerous individual conferences and helps information sharing. AB suggested a ‘once-a-month’ reporting schedule for ‘sprints’ and ‘once a week’ schedule for teams working on a sprint. The Board could then monitor this progress. [102:54] Chris called to our attention how the responsibility for certain objectives can affect recruitment for Board Members and Church officials in the future. Recently we have had very active retired persons able to function in these capacities, but recruitment of younger, professionally active persons with family responsibilities may be hampered by extensive time commitments in certain offices. How many hours per week is required for a President, for example? Are we designing a system that can function well in an organization run on volunteer efforts? Heather seconded these sentiments citing her succeeding into the Presidency next year as the ‘growing pains’ of change loomed larger. Clearly this conversation needs to take place. [109:27] In the interest of getting things done, Bill expressed his preference for seeing a name attached

specific areas of responsibility. He added that certain areas lacked a specific target date for completion, suggesting that further effort should focus on this. Roy asked if adding names and deadlines signified yearly goals in need of annual revision.

**Maddie moved, Jeff seconded, that the Board work with the Personnel Committee, the Leadership Development Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee and volunteer teams to update By-Laws, Charter and staff job description changes. The goal of this work will be to better facilitate consistent accountability for accomplishing TVUUC's Mission and Board Goal deployment using systems thinking and Objectives and Key Results as tools in the path towards progress. Jeff offered, Mary seconded a friendly amendment that the group undertaking this study provide brief monthly written progress reports.**

In discussion, the relationship between the Vision Statement, reject by a past Board, and the Mission Statement referenced above was brought up. A re-formulation of these statements and their relationship may emerge. For the Board's information, Claudia read out the Mission Statement:

- "The Mission of the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church is to create a welcoming community and nurture spiritual growth that challenges us to transform the world through acts of love and justice" [119:19]

In further discussion, AB clarified that, according to the UUA, the Congregation is responsible for the Vision and the Board is responsible for the Mission. [120:23]

**Motion passed unanimously. [125:14]**

## **6. Quarterly Finance Report**

Bill referred to the two financial reports he had distributed previously to the Board, the Statement of Activities and Statement of Financial Position.

Regarding the **Activities**, most of the pluses and minuses at this time of year as basically timing, so there are no real concerns here. There is one line of note under Non-Pledge Contributions it is over \$35,000. It is definitely unusual and not budgeted, resulting from an estate, and he recommended shifting these funds into a restricted account because it is not a budgeted item. [126:29] In response to a question, Bill recommended assigning this to the Sustainability Fund because it has a relatively broad definition for how it can be used and expenditures from it need to be approved by the Board.

Regarding the **Financial Position**, our balance sheet shows no particular outliers. We have 4.5 months of cash reserve and are obligated to have a minimum of 2.5 months. We are financially in solid shape. One matter of note: we have under Cash and Cash Equivalents we have \$100,000 dollars invested in three separate CD accounts with staggered dates of maturity earning approx. 5%. The staggered dates permit us to reinvest at the best available interest rates we can achieve at the differing maturity dates. [128:05]

## **7. Laura Bogle Affiliated Community Vote**

Chris presented the record of Laura Bogle as Minister of the Foothills Fellowship for several years who has segued into Community Ministry. The UUA asks that Community Minister be affiliated with a congregation. Chris referred to the conditions he provided for information (below). That does not mean she works for us, but that we recognize and respect her ministry. She is working with Hospice Ministry and Spiritual Direction. The Covenant distributed to the Board outlines some of the things we would be affirming about her public work. She has already offered help with our Our Whole Lives class. Our Board vote is to affirm her public community ministering. Chris endorsed this motion and called attention to our tradition of having retired ministers in our congregation already who continue to work in our shared interests and activities, such as the Pride Parade. Eddie added his endorsement of Laura highlighting her work in hospice care and memorial services. Jon Coffee

occupies a similar position as UT Hospital Chaplain.

### **Community minister roles and responsibilities to congregation**

The Affiliated Community Minister jointly covenants with the congregation (through the Board of Trustees (BoT)) and the Lead Minister. These covenants assume that the Affiliated Community Minister will be in right relationship with members and friends of the congregation and serve the institution's mission and vision as well as recognize the authority of the serving Lead Minister and staff.

Affiliated ministers are not employed by the congregation on any permanent basis.

Rev. Laura Bogle was ordained in 2013, is in full ministerial fellowship with the UUA and is a member of the UU Ministers Association. Rev. Laura's primary ministry is Spiritual Direction and end-of-life spiritual care. She is trained as an End-of-Life Doula (training completed at International End of Life Doula Association and proficiency certification through the National End of Life Doula Alliance). In 2023-2024 she is completing certification as a Spiritual Director through Meadville-Lombard Theological School.

### **Services and responsibilities:**

- Lead one service during the regular church year without compensation. Other worship services would be remunerated at regular UUMA fees.
- Occasionally serve as facilitator for adult spiritual development sessions. (This year I'll serve on the facilitation team for Young Adult OWL.)
- If requested by Lead Minister, and as available, may perform Rites of Passage (weddings, memorials, etc.), but only with standard compensation.
- If requested by Lead Minister, provide pastoral care support; to be compensated at standard UUMA rates?
- Organize one free public event connected to my community ministry. For example, a Death Café.
- May organize additional public education events with reduced registration for TVUUC members. For example: an Enneagram workshop with a guest presenter; a monthly education series on death and dying.
- Offer reduced rate to TVUUC members for Spiritual Direction sessions (individual or group) (I would likely not be ready to offer this until the Spring 2024)

### **Congregation's roles and responsibilities may include:**

- Use of church facilities when available, without charge, as negotiated (could this include use of private office space for virtual spiritual direction sessions this year?)
- Some administrative services (copier, WiFi, printing, etc.)
- Acknowledgement of affiliation on general church communication (newsletter, website, Orders of service, etc.)
- Serving as a ministerial delegate at General Assemblies
- Space on Bulletin Board, information kiosk, etc.
- Opportunities for in-reach, education and relationship building with the congregation
- Opportunities to promote professional services

Each ACM is bound to all policies and documents governing TVUUC, especially with respect to speaking on behalf of the congregation's specific stand on controversial issues

**Jeff moved, Bill seconded that we accept Laura Bogle as an Affiliated Community Minister. Unanimous.**

## **8. Heska Amuna Addendum**

Before proceeding to adjournment, Claudia asked further Board guidance and input regarding the request from Heska Amuna Synagogue to rent space for their services and associated activities. Heska Amuna will pay for the sexton, additional hours as needed, additional custodial care as needed, beyond the rental fee for the Sanctuary, the Fellowship Hall and other designated spaces at a rate of 55% of the normal rental fee, as we customarily do in other instances. Claudia noted that, in the case Heska Amuna might utilize our kitchen space, Frank Floyd, who owns a construction business, would remodel the kitchen to bring it into conformity with kosher guidelines. [136:13] The RE kitchen under discussion is currently used almost exclusively as storage space. In the case of remodeling, a keypad would be added to the door and a sign that the kitchen has been reconfigured as a kosher kitchen, not to be used for other purposes in the meantime. Another alternative under consideration is that Heska Amuna simply bring in all their kitchen utensils etc. and not use ours. [139:27] Chris reminded us that the span of interests in our church embraces pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian interests, that is a part of our inclusive agenda and that we will have to negotiate a delicate balance in interfaith matters. Claudia also passed on a communication from Will Dunklin, who used to work with Heska Amuna, that we welcome them with open arms and not attempt to profit from their misfortune, a sentiment which met with general accord. In discussion, it emerged that we do not profit from renting out our space and Bill asked that we reflect on the necessity of a discount in this proposed circumstance. Mary urged that any refurbishing done be done as far as possible in accordance with our Green Sanctuary objectives. Claudia noted that Chris had asked her to



reach out to other UU congregations to see if other similar circumstances could help us in our decision. She related the case of one UU congregation that had housed a synagogue following a lightning strike that had made the synagogue unusable 25 years ago. This had resulted in a hugely positive impact on their public profile and an enduring close cooperative relationship between those congregations. She also reported Jeff Becker's offer to reach out to local media in the event we share our worship space, another possibly priceless impact on our profile. [144:25]

## **9. Closing Words and Adjournment**

Heather offered words of closing that we find peace and work for peace. [145:30]

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Jeff Mellor, Clerk-Secretary**

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## **Addendum: Additional Board action done remotely.**

On Oct 24, 2023, at 8:49 AM, Eddie Chin <[eddie.chin.tn@comcast.net](mailto:eddie.chin.tn@comcast.net)> wrote:

Dear Board Members:

Below is a Motion that I am presenting to you for an Online Vote:

### **MOTION:**

I move that we release the property that we have been talking about from Bobby DeRidder (Michael Miller's Mom) that was supposedly gifted to the church some 15-20 years ago. There is no evidence that the gift was ever accepted by TVUUC. Family members recall in conversation way back about the church not accepting the land gift. Chris Buice said that it is not unusual to refuse gifts that were hard to sell off and not cost efficient to turn over. We have never paid a penny of property taxes, and there is no record of it in our files. I vote to release the property to Bobby DeRidder's son Michael Miller our Church Administrative Assistant & Bookkeeper. I believe it is the right thing to do.

### **SECONDED:**

Motion has been seconded by Heather Kistner.

**Motion passed.**