

Good afternoon. I'm Angie Sifferman, and I'm serving as President of the Board of Trustees this year.

Welcome everyone in the room and everyone joining us virtually. We are so happy to have you with us today. And now I'll hand it over to Rev. Beth Dana to call us into this moment.

I'm thrilled to be here with you all today to share a report from the Board on our financials, our priorities for the year, and a few other key updates.

Our Board of Trustees suggested that it might be helpful to quickly review the role of the Board and how we work with the church staff. For some of you that might be old hat, but for many of you, the way we govern our church may be new.

According to our Bylaws, the Board of Trustees acts on behalf of the Congregation, sets the Church's policies, and monitors the chief executive officer's performance. The Senior Minister serves as the chief executive officer of the Church.

The Board sets the Ends statements which you can find on the church's website. Our seven Ends statements define who we are and who we aspire to be. The Senior Minister and the church staff determine the means to meet our ends.

The Board sets the strategy for the church, and the Senior Minister and church staff deliver against the strategy. Hopefully, that provides a bit of context.

I'll begin with a brief financial summary. Thank you to our treasurer, James Greene, for preparing the report. Importantly, let me begin by stating that our financials are sound.

As we announced at the December Parish Meeting, The **Love First capital campaign** that began in 2016 officially ended in December 2022. Most of the church's original goals were met. The Love First capital campaign was a success through the effort of extremely dedicated leaders and the generous support of the congregation. We managed through a pandemic, supply chain problems, and inflation. We have a visible reminder of the Love First campaign as many of us gather in this beautiful space today.

With regards to our year-to-date 2023 church budget. There have been no surprises through the first quarter, and we're slightly ahead of budget through March 2023.

Next, our operating reserves. The "other" part of the church budget. Our church reserves are on target and in alignment with our policy. Importantly, the facilities sinking fund has an ample balance.

And finally, our Endowment and Memorial Gifts Fund or EMGF performance. The EMGF is performing as expected. Thanks to the growing fund, the EMGF serves as one of the church's most generous "donors" with annual contributions of nearly \$300,000.

You can find more information in the printed financial reports in your packets.

During the last couple of Parish meetings, we have provided updates on our church's minister search process. Last spring, we announced that we were setting up a search committee to partner with Rev. Kanter to fill a new hired ministerial position, the Minister of Care and Community Engagement. The Board made a key distinction at the time that this role would be a hired minister rather than a called minister. The committee underwent a thoughtful process and officially announced in February that Rev. T.J. Fitzgerald has been hired to serve in this important ministerial role. Again, thank you to the search committee for serving with care and welcome T.J.

The Unitarian Universalist Association's Annual Meeting called General Assembly begins June 21 in a hybrid format in Pittsburgh and online. The board is entering into the process of certifying our church's delegates.

Each year, the Board considers its key priorities for the year. This year we are structuring our work around a few key pillars.

First, we are in between strategic plans. Having completed the Love First campaign, we are now in a pondering phase as we consider the future of our church and what's next in our long legacy. We have a healthy, vibrant church and we are working to answer the question of what's next for our church. Today's conversation is an important step in this journey, and we want to hear from all of you.

Another key priority this year is our continued commitment to racial equity. Since I've been serving on our board, racial equity has been a critical part of our dialogue. For the second consecutive year, our newly joined Board Members are joining holy conversations facilitated by the Racial Equity Task Force. And we have formed a Racial Equity Governance Task Force comprised of board members who are reviewing key governance and policy documentation with a racial equity lens. I'd like to thank the Racial Equity Task Force for their continued support and advocacy.

Our third priority is focused on sustainable funding. As we consider the future of our church, we are also exploring what the sustainable funding model of the future looks like for us. We are also assessing the feasibility and cost of specific projects including solar panels and replacing our playground.

And finally, we are working to ensure transparency and meaningful communications with the congregation. Hopefully, you feel that throughout the year. As we act on behalf of the

congregation, this task force is focused on creating forums and communications channels to get information to you and provide an opportunity for you to have your voice heard.

I hope this update about what the Board is focused on this year is helpful and interesting to you. Thanks for entrusting me to lead alongside this dedicated group of trustees. It's an honor and a joy. And we look forward to your input today.