

Congregational Governance Presentation
Question and Answer Session
All Souls Church Unitarian
with
Rev. David Pyle
Governance Consultant
Central East Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association
April 22nd, 2018 1:00pm-3:30pm

1:00pm – 1:15pm Chalice Lighting and Introduction

After lighting the chalice, we will have a brief introduction, and Rev. Pyle will introduce the Governance Assessment Process that the ASC Board of Trustees has asked Rev. Pyle to conduct between April – June of 2018. This session is a part of the information gathering for that Governance Assessment Process, and there may be other opportunities for congregational input and feedback into that process. We will introduce the agenda for the meeting, and highlight that the majority of the time will be for congregants to ask questions of Rev. Pyle on governance (How we make decisions together) both at ASC and also more broadly in Unitarian Universalist congregations. There will also be an opportunity for people to ask questions by writing them on index cards, with their names and emails, to have those questions answered after the meeting if they do not wish to ask them during the meeting. We will frame that Rev. Pyle is present as a Governance Consultant, and has had only limited engagement in the broader experience of ASC these last six months.

1:15pm – 1:45pm Basic Assumptions and Practice of Policy Governance in Congregations

Rev. Pyle will present a brief overview of the assumptions that underlay Policy Governance systems, and will highlight both the blessings and the challenges of these systems, as someone who has worked both as a consultant in governance and also as an Executive under Policy Governance. Specifically, Rev. Pyle will focus on ways in which these systems were not designed for use in congregations, and how some of the basic assumptions of Policy Governance can be problematic in congregations. Rev. Pyle will also discuss some of the ways that congregations have adapted Policy Governance to be more in-tune with their congregational cultures, as well as some other systems of governance that congregations have utilized.

1:45pm – 2:00pm Governance at All Souls Church, Unitarian

Rev. Pyle will briefly present on some of the specifics of Governance at All Souls Church, including ways in which the governance of ASC has interacted with the basic blessings and challenges of Policy Governance. This will be an initial presentation as the Governance Assessment Process will not be complete until the end of June, 2018. As such, it will consist of Rev. Pyle's observations since beginning consultation work with the ASC Board in Spring of 2017.

2:00pm – 3:20pm Questions on Governance and Governance Transitions

Rev. Pyle will take questions from those who have attended, focused primarily on questions of Governance, or how congregations make decisions together. These questions may be about general assumptions, benefits, biases, and challenges of governance in Unitarian Universalist Congregations. They may be about the interaction between Congregational Polity and Policy Governance. They may be about the specific nature of the Governance system at All Souls Church. They may be about the governance relationship between ASC and the UUA. They may be about what other forms of governance might look like. They may be about the role of Church Staff in Governance.

In essence, we envision this time as the congregation having a consultation on governance with the Central East Region's Governance Consultant. Rev. Pyle will also be engaging the questions as part of his own research and development of the Governance Assessment that the ASC Board has requested.

It is important to note that Rev. Pyle has not been directly engaged in the circumstances related to the specifics of recent ministerial departures, and likely cannot answer direct questions about those departures. However, he can engage questions regarding the Unitarian Universalist Association and its support for and involvement with congregations.

3:20pm – 3:30pm Reflections and Closing

Rev. Pyle will offer a brief reflection on what he has learned about ASC during this session that will have an impact on the Governance Assessment Process, and will offer gratitude to the congregation for assisting in that process.