

Unity Church Special Board Meeting Minutes January 2nd, 2026

Board of Trustees: Jane Prince, Marcia Hayes, Molly Flattum, Debbie Cuchman, Kat Sherman, Rich Lau, Taylor Burr, Sara Ford

ET: Laura Park, KP

Motion to approve the Currier Fund grant agreement with the City of Saint Paul.

First: Jane Prince

Second: Taylor Burr

Discussion:

- The city had not made an agreement like this before, so they adapted another grant agreement. The board reached out to the city (Dan - the assistant city attorney who is assigned to the commission) to refine the agreement to better reflect what is needed for this specific grant agreement.
- The agreement is not perfect but the city did work with us to try to address most of our concerns.
- Added a provision for binding mediation with the city. Does not give us a guarantee that we would get our money back under the circumstance that the city misuses funds and breaks our agreement. Mediation requires parties to come to a discussion with a referee but does not require the parties to come to an agreement.
- Under the ordinance that created the commission, any money that the committee spends has to be recommended by the commission and approved by the city council.
- MGPDA - What would this open us up to in terms of our records? - The government practices act applies to governments, not nonprofits. This recognizes that any documents we enter into with the city are subject to this act because the city is subject to this law.
- Insurance - we have the appropriate insurance and it has been renewed.
- We made sure that we are equal parties to the city and that the agreement would apply to both parties.
- The city resolution says that the commission can spend this on a harm report, education, archives, and its 2026 work plan. Note that resolutions can be amended so this is a self-monitoring situation.
- Commissioners are on three year rolling terms.
- How do we foreground accountability without leveraging what we want, or supposed "expertise" that would shape decision making around how reparations work actually happens.
- The differences between a grant and a donation. Grant usually has more monitoring and due diligence on the grantee's part, whereas for a donation, it is more on the recipient's end to be responsible for the spending of the money.
- This is referred to in the council resolution as a gift.
- This resolution language was worked on by the commission, our reparations committee and city council members.

Approved - motion passed unanimously