

## Unity Church Unitarian: Meeting of the Board of Trustees June 13, 2018

The meeting took place at Unity Church-Unitarian, 733 Portland Ave, St. Paul, Minn.

**Board of Trustees (BOT) members present:** Nila Gouldin, Nancy Everet, Justin Cummins, John Steiner-Manning, Bailey Webster, Jill Van Koolwijk, Ruth Kirkland, Jennifer Tong, Terry Linskey

**Executive Team (ET) members present:** Barbara Hubbard, Lisa Friedman, Rob Eller-Isaacs, Janne Eller-Isaacs

**Others present:** Laura Park, Andrea Johnson, Arif Mamdani, Jane Thompson

Justin called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Nancy Evert offered an opening reading.

### **Business matters**

#### Consent agenda:

***Jill Van Koolwijk moved to approve the May meeting minutes. Nila Gouldin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

#### Executive team report:

***John Steiner-Manning moved to accept the executive team report as compliant with Policy II.B (staff changes). Nancy Evert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

***Bailey Webster moved that the Executive Team is not in compliance with the limitations of Policy II.E (financial condition), and the board is satisfied that the plan the ET has presented will move us toward compliance. John Steiner-Manning seconded the motion.***

***Ruth Kirkland moved to accept the Executive Team report as compliant with Policy II.H (communication and counsel). Terry Linskey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

Discussion: a lot of new information. Rob report: with the new Ends, the ET is doing planning for the fall. The new Ends impact the music conversation that is underway, the multicultural program partners, as well as the canvass. Asking for permission to present the Ends to the congregation in September (agenda says October, it's a moving target). Waiting until the Annual Meeting strikes the ET as a deficit to the planning process for the coming year.

The ET has already shared the Ends with the music team, and will be sharing with the multicultural program partners. Can't think of any reason not to present the Ends early. The ET will be writing an interpretation of the Ends at their retreat in August. The interpretation will be shared with the Board at the September meeting. Historically a word or two of the ends has been tweaked through the process, but very minor changes.

## **Prophetic Leadership**

Board Capacity subteam: The nominations process is underway. The nominations team (Bailey Webster, Ruth Kirkland, Cara Letofsky, and Paul Rogne) will be taking applications and reviewing nominees now until the second half of July.

BoardEffect will be rolled out to the board at the July meeting. There will be a half-hour Zoom training by our BoardEffect liason.

Evaluation subteam: Congregational survey: the goal was 300 responses, got 330-something. Bill and Laura are in the process of analyzing. Staff and volunteer surveys are out now. Terry is collecting them and will tabulate them. The next evaluation that is up is the Board self-evaluation. Nancy, Nila, and Terry will be putting that together and sending out in the next week. We will have until the end of June to complete it. The ET evaluation will be reviewed and updated at the July meeting. Send feedback to the team if you have it.

Financials task force: Meeting scheduled for Monday. They have asked Wendy Harden to to look at the policy governing financials. That will be the focus of the meeting. No update beyond that.

Policy subteam: Continued discussion around updating the policies and making bylaw changes. The lawyer for Unity with Nancy and Justin have had some interesting conversation about conflict of interest language, which will be brought to the board for review at the July meeting (tentatively). Question about limitation around the treasurer of the board – will be discussed with the financials task force.

Question about presenting policy changes to the congregation and the timeline for that – should it be presented at the annual meeting or a special meeting?

Transitions subteam: Meeting next week. Will have good conversation about research calls being made. Nothing new to report since the last meeting.

Informal ET report on music director search: There is a team, headed up by Brian Newhouse, conducting the search. Brian has gone to the three largest churches that have conducted music searches recently, and collected materials and advice. The ET has interviewed the music staff at Unity to find out what it is they do. There is also a team responsible for organizing an honoring of Ruth Palmer after Foote Sunday in May 2019.

Preliminary discussion about financial priorities: This was meant to be discussed by the financials task force. We will reconvene on this when they have done so.

Vote on revised financial review: Pledges are down by 100 households, and the ET anticipates a \$70,000 shortfall in the budget. The Executive Team proposes having a “Miracle Sunday” offering on June 24<sup>th</sup> to try to recoup some or all of that amount.

**Jill Van Koolwijk moved to approve the ET’s “Miracle Sunday” plan. Terry Linskey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Nancy Evert offered a closing reading.

Justin Cummins adjourned the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Bailey Webster, secretary.*