

Unity Church Unitarian: Meeting of the Board of Trustees

December 13, 2017

The meeting took place at Mark and Sally Foster's house, 805 Portland Ave., St. Paul.

Board of Trustees (BOT) members present: Nancy Evert, Angela Newhouse, Stu Alger, Justin Cummins, John Steiner-Manning, Bailey Webster, Mark Foster, Estelle Brouwer, Jill Van Koolwijk, Nila Gouldin, Ruth Kirkland, Terry Linskey, Jennifer Tong

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

Others present: Laura Park, Andrea Johnson, Sally Foster

Justin called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Nancy Evert offered an opening reading.

Prophetic Leadership:

Reflections from past and current Board members

Outgoing Board members Angela Newhouse, Mark Foster, Stu Alger, and Estelle Brouwer reflected on their time on the Board, and made recommendations for the Board's focus in the coming year.

Current board members Bailey Webster, Justin Cummins, John Steiner-Manning, and Nancy Evert also reflected on the past year(s), and expressed hopes for the coming year.

Incoming Board members Jill Van Koolwijk, Nila Gouldin, Ruth Kirkland, Terry Linskey, and Jennifer Tong reflected on their hopes for the coming year, and expectations for their service on the Board.

Business Matters

Consent Agenda

Approval of November minutes and Special Meeting Minutes

Nancy Evert moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

John Steiner-Manning seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Monitoring

Executive Team Report

II.B. Staff Changes

Warren Ellis is no longer employed by Unity Church. Changes are being made to current staff structure, and an additional person will be hired to provide hospitality and security on a part-time basis.

Ruth Kirkland moved to accept the Executive Team Report as compliant with the limitations of II.B. (staff changes).

Nancy Evert seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

II.E. Financial Condition

Barbara Hubbard presented the usual financial statements, with the addition of footnotes describing some of the key financial indicators. She discussed working with the financials subteam on developing a more accessible reporting system.

Jill Van Koolwijk moved to accept the Executive Team Report as compliant with the limitations of II.B. (staff changes).

Ruth Kirkland seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

II.H. Communication & Counsel

Rob reported on a recent development regarding Danny Givens, Pastor of Above Every Name. Danny is pursuing a fellowship with the UUA. He wants to have a nested ministry within Unity Church, which has many implications that should be thought through. Rob recommended reconvening a covenant task force made up of seven congregation members by the end of January to address this possibility.

The current Above Every Name and Unity covenant can be found in the Board materials. We want to avoid moving forward on assumptions about our relationship.

Arif Mamdani and Danny are “accountability partners” to each other.

Nancy Evert moved that the Executive Team is not in compliance with the limitations of Policy II.E. and the board is satisfied that the plan the ET has presented will move us toward compliance. Ruth Kirkland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Stu Alger offered a closing reading.

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Bailey Webster, Secretary