

March Meeting Minutes:

Unity Church Unitarian: Meeting of the Board of Trustees March 14 , 2020

The meeting took place at Unity Church-Unitarian, 733 Portland Ave, St. Paul, MN and via Zoom.

Board of Trustees (BOT) members present: Jackie Smith (chair), Jill van Koolwijk (secretary), Jennifer Tong (via Zoom), Nila Gouldin, Ruth Kirkland, Clover Earl, Alex Askew, Justin Cummins, Louise Livesay-Al

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

Guests: Laura Park, Vernon Sowell

Jackie Smith called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

An opening reading was offered by Jennifer Tong.

Our journaling prompt was: What centers you during this time of a rapidly changing world? Some themes emerged: Gratitude, Patience, Presence, Connection.

Monitoring Reports – ET report

Policy II.E. Financial Condition:

Louise Livesay-Al moved to accept the Executive Team report as in compliance with policy II E. The Financial Condition here refers specifically to the December 31, 2019 financial report. The motion passed unanimously.

(Discussion: The auditors from SDK visited Unity Church to gather financial statements in their pre-audit work. Vernon Sowell our new Director of Finance is being trained in with Barbara Hubbard. Our financial standing is strong this month partly because part of the Helener Carrier fund came in. We are going to have our fundraiser this year in April. The Silent Auction will go forward virtually with an online mini concert by Ellis.)

Policy II.B. Staff Changes:

Jill van Koolwijk moved to accept the Executive Team report as in compliance with policy II B (Staff Changes). The motion passed unanimously.

Policy II.H. Communication and Counsel to the Board:

Justin Cummins moved to accept the Executive Team report as in compliance with policy II H (Communication and Counsel to the Board). The motion passed unanimously.

(Discussion: We will have an IDI results meeting via Zoom with the Board soon. Drew will coordinate with individuals.

The men's retreat theme of stewardship will be integrated in the financial future of the church. The pledge goal has almost been met. This has never happened as early as this year.

Congregants will be encouraged to donate money to Unity Church in case of loss of income for staff in light of Covid19. Unity will also continue the collection online in the absence of in-person worship services.

Our online data of ShelbyNext will play a larger role during this time to continue relationships and connections. Congregants will be encouraged to upload their photos in ShelbyNext.)

Policy II.G. Conflict of Interest:

Clover Earl moved to accept the Executive Team report as in compliance with policy II G (Conflict of Interest). The motion passed unanimously.

(Discussion: The Conflict of Interest Policy has to be signed by Board Members on an annual basis.)

Policy II.I. Facilities Planning:

Louise Livesay-Al moved to accept the Executive Team report as in compliance with policy II I (Facilities Planning). The motion passed unanimously.

Prophetic Leadership – Resilience

There will be a collage of voices around the theme of Resilience in an upcoming worship service. Current and former Board Members are invited to submit a written example of resiliency to Bailey Webster.

Break

Subcommittee Reports

Transition team report: The interim minister position posting will go to the UUA on April 9. The composition of the Ministerial Search Team is being determined by a matrix that includes categories of Identity, Expertise and Perspective. The Transition Subcommittee has identified 30 people who scored very high on our scale of 12 points. The Board will have to decide on a final slate of 20 to be presented to the full congregation on April 26 for a vote.

Evaluation team report: The Evaluation team wants input on revising the congregational survey. What would we ideally want from the survey?

Questions such as “How do the End Statements impact your life? Which Ends speaks to you?” focus on the impact on the individual versus the institution of the church.

But making the interpretations of the Ends available to our congregants will focus on the church as a whole.

The Evaluation Team wants to clarify on how to best evaluate the ET on their strategic priorities.

Board Capacity: The team is looking for some feedback of the process to recruit new board members.

Financial task force: The gift acceptance policy was revised as part of the financial limitations of our governing policies.

Clover Earl moved to accept the gift acceptance policy. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Approval of February 8, 2012 Meeting Minutes:

Louise Livesay-Al moved to accept the February 8, 2012 Meeting Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Jeannine Robinett Application:

Alex Askew moved to accept the Application of Jeannine Robinett. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting evaluation

Jennifer Tong offered a closing reading.

Jackie Smith adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jill van Koolwijk, secretary.