

UNITY CHURCH UNITARIAN—MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DATE: November 12, 2016

PLACE: UNITY CHURCH LIBRARY, ST. PAUL, MN

BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT) MEMBERS PRESENT: Angela Newhouse, Mark Foster, Hal Freshley, Peggy Lin, Bailey Webster, Justin Cummins, Ginny Allen, Estelle Brouwer, Stuart Alger

EXECUTIVE TEAM (ET) MEMBERS PRESENT: Janne Eller-Isaacs, Rob Eller-Isaacs, Barbara Hubbard, Lisa Friedman, Jessica Clay; Nic Cable

OTHERS PRESENT: Peter Heege; Rev. Eve Stevens

Mark Foster called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Peggy Lin gave an opening reading.

PROPHETIC LEADERSHIP/SUBTEAM WORK

Mark Foster reported on the nominees for Trustee: Nancy Evert, Peter Heege, and John Steiner-Manning. Mark then led a discussion of the agenda for the December BOT meeting and the Annual Meeting. Rob Eller-Isaacs led a discussion on the effort to engage the congregation during the annual canvass. He reported that the discussions were especially fruitful where groups were gathering with staff support. With the writing prompts, the congregation testified to the efficacy of the church, which had a positive effect on the canvass. He reflected that the writing process was part and parcel of stewardship that generates ownership in and commitment to the church. Others reflected that the writing was storytelling, that the technique comes from outside successful organizing efforts, that it allows people to see personal needs that they might not even know they have, that these stories from the congregation should be part of the packet of information that goes to prospective ministers of the congregation. Writing is a kind of ministry—"programming for discipleship" as evangelicals call it—that has been developing at the church under the guidance of Rev. Karen Hering. It is a spiritual practice and liberation theology that allows people to articulate their deepest longings and hopes for their lives and their faiths.

2017 BUDGET

Barbara Hubbard gave updates on the 2017 budget that will be presented to the Congregation for approval at the Annual Meeting. She said that projected revenue is now \$1,310,000. Rob Eller-Isaacs reported that Black Lives Matter UU has received a \$5.3 million grant and that our church will probably not continue as its fiscal agent.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ginny Allen moved approval of the Consent Agenda.

Hal Freshley seconded the motion.

The 10/19/2016 minutes should be amended so that the word "hurch" is replaced by the word "church" in the section concerning the 2017 budget.

With that amendment the motion carried.

MONITORING CONVERSATION

A. ET Interpretation of the Ends Statements.

Lisa Friedman led a discussion of the ET's written report of its interpretation of the Ends Statements and measures of advancement toward the Ends as interpreted. A discussion occurred on the church's contribution of its "fair share" to the UUA and Mid-America Region. The church needs to articulate clearly and definitely its commitment to getting to its fair share, especially for the purposes of the transition to the next ministers. The church can in this way step up to its role in the larger movement. A discussion occurred on the ET's interpretation of the Ends and the data that are (1) needed by the Board; but (2) appropriate given the staff time needed to gather and report the data.

B. Supplemental Report on Financial Planning.

Barbara Hubbard gave a supplemental report on Financial Planning, specifically that long-term debt service will be about \$145,000-\$150,000 per year over the next five years under the restructured loan agreement. The debt service in 2017 is projected to be 9% of the operating budget, which is below the 10% threshold established by the Congregation in 2011 when it approved taking on the debt obligation for the church improvements. She noted that it is unclear whether the 10% limitation refers to the year when the debt was incurred or in each year that debt service is paid. Barbara has discussed the language with Church counsel, which proposed revisions to the approval language that would clarify the meaning relating to the debt service limitation. The Board determined to take up the issue in 2017 and present the revised language to the Congregation at the 2017 Annual Meeting if deemed appropriate.

C. Communication and Counsel to the Board.

The Executive Team led a discussion on its Communication and Counsel to the Board report, which was submitted in writing. The ET answered questions on the possible offer to purchase the Holly Flats property, which the ET decided not to make. Rob Eller-Isaacs reported that he is being asked to lead a Moral Monday Movement effort in Minnesota. He is leaning against the idea and will keep the Board apprised of developments in that regard. Janne Eller-Isaacs reported that the ET has reached out to members of the congregation in this divisive election season to make sure they do not feel marginalized at the church.

Justin Cummins moved approval of the report on Communication and Counsel to the Board as compliant with Policy II.H.

Hal Freshley seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

D. Corporate Resolutions.

Hal Freshley moved approval of the Advisory Services Resolution relating to Merrill Lynch, attached.

Justin Cummins seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

Ginny Allen moved approval of the Non Personal Entity Banking Resolution relating to Western Bank, attached.

Estelle Brouwer seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

Bailey Webster gave a closing reading.

The meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Stuart Alger, Secretary