

**Unity Church - Unitarian
Board of Trustees Meeting
October 21, 2015 7:15 p.m. – 9:15 p.m.
Unity Church - Unitarian Library**

Attendees

Board of Trustees (BOT) Members: Stuart Alger, Ginny Allen, Mark Foster, Hal Freshley, Peggy Lin, Deborah Carter McCoy, Angela Newhouse

Executive Team (ET) Members: Janne Eller-Isaacs, Rob Eller-Isaacs, Barbara Hubbard

Others: Shay MacKay, Laura Park

Opening

Ginny Allen offered an opening reading and a focus question.

Review of the Past

Approval of September Minutes

Mark Foster made a motion to approve the draft minutes of the September 2015 BOT meeting. Hal Freshley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ET Monitoring Reports

Rob Eller-Isaacs gave a verbal report to the BOT on trends and activities in the church. The report focused on:

- The ARLT nominating process. The ARLT met recently to discuss its role and work in monitoring the church's anti-racism efforts. From that meeting, the ARLT articulated its belief that it will be able to step aside and let the BOT monitor these efforts directly when regardless of who serves in senior staff roles in the church, the ARLT feels that the church's anti-racism work will continue. The ARLT would like to meet with the BOT and ET in early 2016 to examine these issues. Pending that examination, no new members will be added to ARLT for 2016;
- Black Lives Matter St. Paul and the Twin Cities marathon;
- The newly-hung Black Lives Matter banner on the Holly Avenue wall;
- The ET's efforts to gather Twin Cities UU churches, first for a trusteeship day on January 16, then for a Teachers Institute later in the spring; and
- Recent strategic planning efforts regarding the Circles of Peace.

Following this report, Stuart Alger made a motion to accept it as indicating the ET's compliance with limitation II.H. (Communication and Counsel to the Board). Deborah Carter McCoy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Stuart Alger made a motion to accept the report on Financial Condition and Staff Changes as compliant with limitations. Angela Newhouse seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Foster made a motion to accept the August and September 2015 Financial Statements as compliant with limitations. Stuart Alger seconded the motion. Barbara Hubbard reviewed the key financial indicators, answered questions about them, and commented that the financial

statements will be used in connection with negotiations for the long-term note, which is scheduled to be presented to the congregation for a vote at the November 21, 2015 congregational meeting. After this brief discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Hal Freshley made a motion to approve the report on Policy II.A. (ET Constraints) as compliant with limitations. Deborah Carter McCoy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Creation of the Future

Rose Schwab's Ordination

Hal Freshley made a motion that Rose Schwab's request for ordination be moved forward for consideration at the congregational meeting to be held on November 21, 2015, pending completion of her Clearness Committee meeting. Mark Foster seconded the nomination. After a brief discussion about special fundraising that will be necessary to cover the costs of the ordination, the motion passed unanimously.

Sponsorship of John Adams and Danny Givens

Mark Foster made a motion that Unity Church-Unitarian sponsor John Adams and Danny Givens as aspirants for the Unitarian Universalist ministry. Angela Newhouse seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2016 Board Candidate Slate

Stuart Alger made a motion that Bailey Webster, Justin Cummins, and Estelle Brouwer be moved forward for consideration at the congregational meeting to be held on November 21, 2015. Deborah Carter McCoy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2016 Board Officers

Peggy Lin made a motion to approve Mark Foster as chair of the BOT and Stuart Alger as secretary for the 2016 BOT year. Deborah Carter McCoy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ET Evaluation

The evaluation sub-team presented the results of the 2015 ET evaluation and thanked BOT and ET members for the 100% response rate. The results included comments acknowledging improvements in the Beyond ends, the lack of congregational awareness of the church's efforts and role in the larger UU movement, and the BOT's improved understanding of how to complete the evaluation.

ET Compensation

Hal Freshley made a motion to approve the ET Compensation Sub-Team's recommendation regarding 2016 ET compensation. Deborah Carter McCoy seconded the motion. After a brief discussion regarding the appropriate benchmarks for ET compensation, the motion passed unanimously.

2016 Budget

Barbara Hubbard discussed the 2016 budget work to date, recognizing that the full budget will be presented to the BOT at the special budget meeting on November 5, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. The

pledge drive is progressing and canvassers are reporting a range of experiences. The ET remains optimistic that the pledge drive will achieve its goal. The ET noted that the ARLT has asked the BOT to review the budget to quantify amounts dedicated to the church's anti-racism work. Finally, the ET and BOT discussed BOT members' roles as stewards of the church.

Annual Meeting Agenda

The chair reviewed the annual meeting agenda and answered questions about it. BOT members are reminded that we prepare and serve the pancake breakfast that occurs before the meeting.

Peggy Lin offered a closing reading. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Follow-Up Items

- The ET agreed to prepare talking points regarding the Black Lives Matter banner for the BOT and ET to jointly communicate to the congregations.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy D. Lin