

UNITY CHURCH UNITARIAN—MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DATE: August 17, 2016

PLACE: UNITY CHURCH, ST. PAUL, MN

BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT) MEMBERS PRESENT: Peggy Lin, Bailey Webster, Justin Cummins, Ginny Allen, Stuart Alger, Hal Freshley

EXECUTIVE TEAM (ET) MEMBERS PRESENT: Janne Eller-Isaacs, Rob Eller-Isaacs, Barbara Hubbard, Jessica Clay, and Nic Cabl

OTHERS PRESENT: Laura Park, Danny Givens, Sue Conner, Peter Hege

Bailey Webster called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

CONVERSATION WITH REV. DANNY GIVENS

Rev. Givens gave a presentation on where, in his view, the relationship between the two ministries is going. He talked about the issue of housing as it related to his work with Black Lives Matter, particularly during the occupation in front of the Governor’s mansion. He said that he is working to get grounded spiritually, and that his experience over the last few years has helped him find himself theologically. He reported that Above Every Name is rebranding, emphasizing social justice/racial justice. He is looking toward a partnership with Unity manifesting in particular find ways, including the possibility of a joint bible study. He reported that he is planning on AEN growing to 60 members by the end of the first year and to 150 members by the end of 2017.

PROPHETIC LEADERSHIP

The Policy Sub-Team (“PS”) reported on proposed policy changes. The proposed policy changes were set forth in a draft provided by the Committee, dated June 28, 2016. The proposed addition to Policy I.C. as amended, is as follows:

“ . . . across race, culture, class and other actual or perceived differences. . . .”

With respect to Policy II.A. the proposed revised language reads:

“ . . . or that is not in conflict with Unity’s principles of anti-racism, anti-oppression, cultural and class inclusivity.”

With respect to Policy II.J., eliminate the proposed changes.

Justin Cummins moved to approve the revisions to the policies as amended. Peggy Lin seconded the motion. The motion passed.

BOARD CAPACITY SUB-TEAM

The Board Capacity Sub-Team (“BCS”) will report later on the Board’s self-evaluation. The BCS is looking for one more member for the nominating committee.

ANTI-RACISM LEADERSHIP TEAM

Peter Hege gave a report on the activities on anti-racist and cultural competency initiatives. He said that ARLT feels that anti-racism principles have become more embedded in Unity policies.

CONSENT AGENDA

Hal Freshley moved to approve the Consent Agenda, items 1 -3. Justin Cummins seconded the motion. The motion passed.

EXECUTIVE TEAM REPORT

The Executive Team (“ET”) gave its report. The ET reported that generally most churches do not control intellectual property. The Policy could be a constraint in engaging a new minister. The ET pointed out that what an intellectual property attorney might advise to maximize control of intellectual property, may not be consistent with church values. The ET noted that the Board should revise the Letters of Agreement. Justin Cummins moved to accept the ET report as in compliance with Policy II.F(asset protection). Hal Freshley seconded the motion. The motion passed. The Board noted exceptions to compliance with respect to Policy II.F.

COMMUNICATION AND COUNSEL TO THE BOARD

Barbara Hubbard reported on the congressional survey results. She said that the ET will respond to individuals who identify themselves as needing help. Otherwise the ET looked for trends arising out of the congregational survey.

Barbara Hubbard also gave a report on financials. Stuart Alger moved to accept the financial conditions report as complying with Policy II.E. Justin Cummins seconded the motion. The motion carried. Stuart Alger moved to accept the Communication and Counsel to the Board (“CCB”) report as compliant with Policy II.H. Ginny Allen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

CLOSING

Hal Freshley gave the closing reading.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stuart Alger, Secretary.