

**Unity Church – Unitarian Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**February 17, 2016 7:15 p.m. – 9:27 p.m.**  
**Unity Church – Unitarian Library**

**Attendees**

Board of Trustees (BOT) Members: Peggy Lin, Hal Freshley, Ginny Allen, Stuart Alger, Angela Newhouse, Mark Foster, Justin Cummins, Bailey Webster and Estelle Brouwer

Executive Team (ET) Members: Rob Eller-Isaacs, Jan Eller-Isaacs, Lisa Friedman, Barbara Hubbard, and Shay MacKay

Others: Arif Mamdani, United Theological Seminary Student Observer

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 P.M.

**Opening**

Bailey Webster offered an opening reading and focus question on transition.

**Board of Trustees Development**

Justin Cummins spoke on the Board of Trustees Trustee Day hosted at Unity Church, which was held in January, 2016. He spoke on his reflections on the idea of relationship that came out of the Trustee Day. A discussion occurred on the Board of Trustees' role at Unity Church, particularly on what value the Board of Trustees brings to the Church. The Board considered provocative questions, including whether the Board has a disruptive role at the Church and if so, to what end. The Board discussed the concept of discipling, meaning living out the values of the Church and visibly engaging in activities that show those values. The Board discussed engagement in the best programs at the Church and how to model the embodiment of the teachings of the Church. The Board further discussed what promises or covenants two churches can make toward each other. The Board considered the possibility of meetings with trustees of organizations that are the moral owners of the Church, and what provocative questions the Board might pose for peer conversations with boards also engaged in policy governance.

Rob Eller-Isaacs said that he would follow up with Hal and Lisa about their experience in meeting with groups identified as moral owners of the Church.

**Dialogue with the Anti-Racism Leadership Team**

Mark Foster will organize a sub-group from the Policy Sub-Team to meet with the Anti-Racism Leadership Team to find out what they are preparing. Mark Foster will also invite Cindy Marsh or a designee from First Unitarian Church to meet to discuss what we are doing in connection with anti-racist efforts

**Formalizing a Relationship with Above Every Name**

The Board discussed formalizing a relationship with the Church and the ministry of Above Every Name. Justin Cummins moved that the Board of Trustees engage with the leadership team of Above Every Name in a covenanting conversation, and that the chair of the BOT appoint a convener of that conversation. Bailey Webster seconded the motion. In a

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discussion, it was noted that Jen Crow will guide the conversation on how the congregations will meet each other. Peggy Lin will convene the sub-team meeting with Above Every Name, and Mark and Justin will be on the sub-team. The motion passed.

### **Consent Agenda**

Angela Newhouse moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Ginny Allen seconded the motion. A discussion occurred and a friendly amendment was that the Executive Team is in compliance with the limitations under consideration in the Consent Agenda with the exception of Item 10, Section F, Asset Protection. The Board instructed the Executive Team to provide data needed to make determination whether the Executive Team was within the limitations with respect to (a) Cash Projections and (b) Intellectual Property Protection when next reports on those items are due. The motion passed.

### **Review of the Past**

Barbara Hubbard reported for the Executive Team on the Executive Team report. She reported on a number of voting members of the Church. Estelle Brouwer asked about attendees in the sanctuary, and Barbara Hubbard said that she would provide a spreadsheet on those numbers. Ginny Allen moved to approve reports on financial condition and staff changes as compliant with Executive Team Limitations Section II.E. Financial Conditions; and II.H. Communication to the Board. Bailey Webster seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **Closing**

Ginny Allen shared a closing reading. The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stuart Alger

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