

UNITY CHURCH UNITARIAN – MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DATE: July 9, 2016

PLACE: UNITY CHURCH, ST. PAUL, MN

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

EXECUTIVE TEAM (ET) MEMBERS PRESENT: Lisa Friedman

OTHERS PRESENT: Laura Park, Michelle Hill

Mark Foster called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Estelle Brouwer offered an opening reading.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Hal Freshley moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Bailey Webster seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**FINANCIALS REPORT**

Michelle Hill gave the May 2016 financials report:

- The fundraiser brought in approximately \$8,000 of a budgeted \$20,000, but additional income is still expected from some donated items.

- Progress is being made on closing the gap in pledge income and Lisa Friedman expects new pledges to continue to come in over the summer.

- There was a brief discussion about how the church has functioned during Barbara Hubbard's Sabbatical. Michelle feels the accounting was the most concrete task to take over. Transferring institutional memory will be more difficult, however there are many documents available as resources as the process for doing this is developed.

**Peggy Lin moved to accept the financial report as compliant with Policy II.E. Hal Freshley seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

**COMMUNICATION AND COUNSEL TO THE BOARD**

Lisa Friedman gave a report to the Board:

- Unity continues to see newcomers during the summer and there is an average of 6-8 people at our newcomers' classes each week.

- Sprinklers are being installed in the Sanctuary. Services are continuing with minimal impact.

- There is an offer on the Marshall Avenue property. It is a reasonable offer, but under the asking price. The ET is awaiting the inspection for the appraisal and hope to close on the property around August 11.

- The ET has responded to the shooting of Philando Castile by offering space to Black Lives Matter organizers and others who need a safe space during the action at the Governor's Residence. Lisa has reached out Dallas in the wake of the shooting of police officers there, and represented Unity at the funeral of Danny Given's cousin.

**Estelle Brouwer moved to accept the ET report as compliant with Policy II. H. Peggy Lin seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

### **POLICY SUB-TEAM**

Hal Freshley reported that the Policy Sub-Team has been looking at Board policies through an anti-racism lens, in response to a request from the Anti-Racism Leadership Team. They have identified 8 possible changes and will send the proposed language to the BOT and ARLT before the next meeting.

### **BOARD CAPACITY SUB-TEAM**

Bailey Webster reported the sub-team discussed a need for further Board training. In response, Laura Park led an exercise consisting of two case studies focusing on Board policies and governance. Major discussion points included a look at the evolving format of the ET report and review of the BOT's complaint procedure.

### **BOARD SELF-EVALUATION**

Estelle Brouwer reported that the Board Capacity Sub-Team is still collecting the written questionnaires for the BOT self-evaluation. In addition, she led the Board in a discussion with the generative question: In what ways as a Board are we living our potential as an elected body of the church? The notes from that conversation will be distributed to the Board.

### **DISCUSSION OF NOMINEE ATTRIBUTES FOR BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

Estelle Brouwer presented a list of possible attributes of Board nominees. There was a discussion about attributes held by current Board members as well as skills and qualities the nominating committee may want to seek out. In particular, people with professional skills in the areas of human resources and finance may be helpful additions to the Board.

Estelle Brouwer offered a closing reading. The meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Angela Newhouse