

First Unitarian Society of Ithaca

Board of Trustees Meeting

September 8, 2020 Minutes

President Andy Turner called the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees (BoT) to order at 6:00pm on Tuesday, September 8, 2020

Trustees Present: Andy Turner (President), Matt Hare (Vice President), Diana Nier (Clerk), Elton Hall, Kim Wilkinson, Therese O'Connor, Lyn Staack, Carsten Hess, Rev. Margaret Weis (Minister, ex-officio), Jennifer Streid-Mullen (Treasurer, ex-officio)

Trustees Absent: Simon Catterall

FUSIT Members & Guests: Steve Hand

Agenda Item # 1: Opening Reading and Minutes Approval

Rev. Margaret lit the chalice and Kim Wilkinson read a selection.

Carsten raised the question of Board responses to messages from congregants with regard to recent staff resignations. Elton and Andy will compile a list of his responses to emails. Margaret and Jessica are checking policies posted on our website to make sure we can point people with questions toward the most current versions.

MOTION: Approve the BoT July 14, 2020 meeting minutes shown in Google Docs folder as of the date and time of this meeting. Moved by Matt, seconded by Elton. **PASSED.**

MOTION: Approve the August BoT Retreat meeting minutes shown in Google Docs folder as of the date and time of this meeting. Moved by Matt, seconded by Elton. **PASSED.**

Agenda Item # 2: Upcoming Events and Minister's Report

(Newsletter deadline Thursday, September 17)

Date	Event	Comments
9/13/20	Water Ceremony	Send photos of water to use in the service
9/13/20	Congregational Conversation On Racial Justice	

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Agenda Item # 3: Unsung Heroes for August, 2020

WHO	WHY
Tech team for summer services: Tim Ball, Jack Zinda, Don Barber	Hard work making summer services happen
Ministerial Evaluation Team: Laura Free, Angela Zhang, Magdalen Lindeberg, Wendy Salomon	Completing ministerial evaluation process under difficult circumstances

Agenda Item # 4: Vision of Ministry Updates

- VOM is a set of principles to guide the church's overall direction and budgeting process, complemented by a set of Board goals to focus on during a specific year.
- Copies of *Governance and Ministry* by Dan Hotchkiss are available in the church office and library for Board members.
- VOM is meant to answer questions about where the congregation is, who we are, and where we collectively want to go/what we want to do.
- Living the Pledge: Rev. Margaret shared details about the program. Matt suggested we include the Living the Pledge program as a Board goal for the 2020-21 year.
- We will leave VOM revisions for after the September 13 Congregational Conversation. The best place for adding new racial justice wording is the Connect theme.

Zoom suggestion from Rev. Margaret: assign a person to check for raised hands, etc., because it's hard to see if people have questions when we're using a shared screen.

Agenda Item # 5: Fall Service Auction

- Choosing auction czars postponed to October due to Board overcommitment.
- Therese will meet with Jessica to gather information about how she organized last year's service auction, and discuss online auction methods other congregations have used.
- We will take further steps and work to involve the congregation at large once we have a better idea of what tasks and positions are required.

Agenda Item # 6: Fundraiser Progress Report

- Matt and Diana have been sorting suggestions from the January meeting, and trying to identify ones that can be implemented in an online context. This process was interrupted by recent events, but we are resuming it this month.

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Agenda Item # 7: Minister Evaluation Process

- The Board has received and accepted the Ministry Triennial Evaluation Report.

Agenda Item # 8: Congregational Conversation Planning

- We will use our [covenant](#) as the basis for communication during the meeting
- Meeting length target is 90 minutes, with a hard limit of 2 hours.
- Breakout groups should be 4-6 people, which means we'll probably have 10-12 groups.
- 20 minutes for breakout groups; ask about surprising ideas rather than best ideas in the report-back section; use Jamboard to gather ideas for later collation and review.
- Reach out to former Board members, etcetera, to be on-call as facilitators if necessary.
- Have a separate breakout room for POC if they want one? If so, include that in an announcement/reminder.
- Kim will be the discussion leader; Lyn will monitor the chat; Carsten will be tech help.
- Kim will send out a plan on Wednesday, 9/9/20.

Agenda Item # 9: Right Relations Committee

- Rev. Margaret explained the concept. Diana is working to get advice and information from the Right Relations Committee of the Washington's Crossing congregation.

MOTION: The Board commits to establishing a Right Relations Committee. Moved by Carsten, seconded by Kim. **PASSED.**

- We will work out more details in the October meeting.

Agenda Item # 10: Meeting Times

- EXCO will create a 6:30-8pm agenda for Wednesday, October 14. This will involve increased use of consent agenda items, thus moving discussion prior to the meeting.
- Andy will communicate new meeting time to Jessica and Loretta.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.

Minutes taken by Diana Nier, 9/8/20.