

Minutes of FUSIT Board of Trustees (BoT) Meeting

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Members Present: Marie Benedetti, Oliver Habicht (Acting Chair), Jennifer Streid-Mullen (scribe), Angela Zhang, Scott Grover (arrived at 6:45)

And via Google Hangouts: Whitney Wiggins

Members Absent: Laura Free, Rick Hendrick, Wendy Salomon

Guests: Rev. Jane Thickstun, Beth Pallace (new Membership Coordinator), Mark Pedersen (Administrator)

Opening

6:17 pm - Oliver brought the meeting to order and Whitney offered an opening reading while the chalice was lit.

Minutes

- Jan. 10, 2017: Approved with slight edits.

Announcements

Dates Reminders:

- Balcony Board meeting: Tues. Feb. 28, 6 pm.
- Next regular Board Meeting: Tues, March 14, 6pm.
- Congregational discussion - February 19 on covenant
- Congregational Meeting - April 23 (covenant and by-laws vote)
- Likely: Candidating week April 30 - Minister Call Congregational Meeting May 7
- Annual Meeting May 31

Unsung Heroes

Question raised about what happens once someone is named as Unsung Hero: Currently mentioned in mid-week announcement but often person never hears of it. Agreed we should send cards to them, have blanks available at Board meeting to do real time at Board meeting and send, and will put into newsletter each month.

- ACTION: Angela Zhang volunteered to do the cards.
- Jens Wenberg for bringing in Shawn Everslee-Bradwell for end-January sermon.
- Mary Kirkpatrick for shelf in the sound room and re-attaching the video screen in the garden entrance.

Guests: None

Agenda Items

Nominating Committee: Whitney Wiggins touched base with Marsha Kardon and Edna Brown, who were unable to come tonight or on other Tuesdays. Their biggest need is for more committee members. They also asked for a Board liaison. It is likely that the Minister will be an appropriate coordination person for them. Jim Murphy is currently a third committee member but out of touch.

Several have said no: Jens, Amelia, Rita. Whitney will suggest Sue Roenke and that they can work with the Minister for connection. It was also noted that we do not have a mechanism in place for the Board committees to interface/link to the Board, and that a formal Board liaison may still make sense.

- **DECISION:** Issue of linkages to Board committees will be put on an ExCo agenda

New Membership Coordinator: Beth Pallace was introduced and started Sunday. Angela Zhang expressed concern from the RE team that Beth has a full time job, so they expressed concern about how she will attend staff meeting. Rev. Jane said that has been worked out and plans are in place. Web support has been pulled back out of that position and it does not include college outreach.

Strategic Planning: Angela Zhang shared a presentation on “Preparing for Successful Strategic Planning,” to prepare the congregation for next year’s strategic planning during 17-18. Planning is the area of partnership governance where all participate, especially the congregation - the plan (and the evaluation part of the cycle) is how the congregation authorizes the Board and Minister to move forward. Based on book “Holy Conversations: Strategic planning as a spiritual practice for congregations” by Rendle and Mann, using Appreciative Inquiry. Proposing for now thru 6/17:1) Gather collective knowledge for shared inquiry (led by RE team); 2) Leadership training sponsored by RE between April and May 2017; 3) Outcome will be strategic planning committee (appointed by board in July mtg). Draft worksheet distributed for proposed balcony meeting 2/28, as starting point, as the discussion needs to involve the full congregation.

- **DECISION:** Agreed to have balcony meeting 2/28 to discuss process further, to be led by Angela Zhang.

Open Questions: Oliver Habicht reviewed 2016-2017’s Open questions. Discussion will be part of the 2/28 Balcony meeting.

Leadership Training: Oliver Habicht has learned we are not too late for 2 major trainings this spring. Rev. Jane will spread the word to current and potential team leaders in the church, as a tool to train and inspire. 3 Board members are taking, and 1 will follow up.

Vision of Ministry Survey: Wendy Salomon is working on it.

Financials: Internal audit team underway with Jens, Rick Geddes and Terry Starr, under guidance of Rick Hendrick. Current financials: Pledges up \$4000. Maintenance overspent in December, and have now overspent annual budget, and Sara has been made aware. Owl training does not have any candidates, needs budget decision by April, but is probably fine to postpone another year. Bottom line is then about \$1500 short before any maintenance overspend. Discussed preschool - owner wants to sell, will be lucky to get a year lease without increase.

- **ACTION:** Suggested we contact New Roots about their potential space needs.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.