

Minutes of FUSIT Board of Trustees (BoT) Meeting

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

Members Present: Whitney Wiggins, Marie Benedetti, Oliver Habicht (Chair), Jennifer Streid-Mullen (scribe), Angela Zhang, Scott Grover, Laura Free (partial attendance), Rick Hendrick, Wendy Salomon

Members Absent: (All present)

Guests: Rev. Jane Thickstun, Mark Pedersen (Administrator), Pat Evans, John Gaines, Walt Peck, Mark Piechota, Beth Pallace (Membership Coordinator), Jim Skaley

Opening

6:05 pm - Oliver brought the meeting to order and Rev. Jane offered an opening reading while the chalice was lit.

Minutes

- March 28, 2017: Approved.

Dates Reminders

- Lunch with Rev. Weis: Saturday, April 22.
- Balcony Board meeting: Tuesday, April 25 with dinner, 6 pm. Whitney to set up food to be brought in, Scott to help set up, Angela to discuss strategy, lead strategy exercise.
- Candidating week: Saturday, April 23th - Sunday, April 30th.
- Minister Call Congregational Meeting: Sunday, April 30th.
- Next regular Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 9, 6 pm.
- Congregational Meeting: Budget discussion, Sunday, May 7.
- Annual Meeting: Wednesday, May 31st, 5 pm dinner, 6 pm meeting (budget, Board elections, Nom. Comm. elections, By-Laws, Covenant).

Meeting

Visitors

Walt Peck: Highlights on progress of Transition Team, especially underlining the importance of Transition Team role in future.

Angela Zhang as guest: Showed strategic planning poster and said all is ready to go after candidating week.

Unsung Heroes

- Negotiating Team (Pat Evans, Rick Hendrick, Fred Balfour), and highlight our excitement about the success of the SMSC with Rev. Weis.
- Social Justice Team for events recently hosted which have brought in a wide variety of people, some expressing interest in FUSIT.

Invited Guests: Membership Team

Membership Team was invited to discuss their work and issues with the Board. Jim Skaley (Chair), John Gaines (Hospitality Team Lead), and Beth Pallace (Membership Coordinator) attended. Team is starting to discuss a new, updated membership plan. Beth hit the ground running in February.

Membership packets are ready with current UUA branding and cohesiveness. Newcomers: Getting nametags right away is working, important. Beth acknowledges pew cards within 24 hours via email. Need enhanced email with constant contact. Beth is administrator with Mark of Facebook and will start Twitter. Need to expand membership of the Team. Participating in Ithaca Festival and tabling one day at Greenstar. John reported that Hospitality Teams still successful after 3 years. Having RE Table every Sunday helps, need to have a designated SGM person each Sunday to connect newcomers to.

Team would appreciate all FUSIT leaders, including Board members, to:

- Look for opportunities to welcome and orient newcomers.
- Encourage others to become Team members.

Board check-in, Whitney Wiggins

The next Team the Board would appreciate checking in with is the Social Justice Team.

- Whitney to contact Chair to see if they are available.

Letter of Call and Ministry Agreement, Rick Hendrick

Needs to be kept confidential for now until the Settled Minister Search Committee (SMSC) has an opportunity to introduce the candidate to the congregation. 7 significant changes from December draft were reviewed. The SMSC and Negotiating Team were thanked.

- **MOTION:** The Board agrees for Board President Laura Free to sign the Letter of Call and Ministry Agreement, to be sent on to Rev. Weis. APPROVED unanimously.

Scheduling, Whitney Wiggins

Candidating Week: Board lunch with Rev. Weis on Saturday 4/22. Scott Grover, Angela Zhang, Oliver Habicht, and Whitney Wiggins not available. Balcony Board meeting 4/25 with dinner - Wendy Salomon not available. Will be communicated to Don Barber.

Bylaw changes, Scott Grover

Fred Balfour will help Scott with the review of the changes re NYS laws, and will start ASAP.

Finance Committee report, Jennifer Streid-Mullen

Current year looking \$5500 short, but that is being tolerated for now - can reduce reserves contribution (\$1000) and/or UUA dues if needed. New roof leak found, outside scope of last year's project, estimated cost \$6200. Will apply excess capital funds raised last year to cover costs - Mark will estimate money available. Next year's budget appears \$2000 short with new minister package but no other adjustments to pensions, but based on a 3.5% contribution from Endowment and pledges of \$295,000. Work will continue on these items as well as Music costs. Launch fund assumed zero, but will have cards printed this year and hope to raise \$10,000 (for 4 years) by mid-May budget deadline, and more during early summer.

Endowment Committee, Rick Hendrick

The following motion was discussed with Endowment, who asked that one sentence be removed (which has been).

- **MOTION:** Include item 1.6.6 in Board Policy Book: No more than 3.5% per year of a five-year rolling average of the market value of Endowment assets may be spent or transferred to operating funds in any rolling five year period. Separate Endowment funds may be pooled for the purpose of calculating this percentage. In the event that this five-year average percentage would fall below 3%, the allocation for that year shall be confirmed by a Board of Trustees vote.
APPROVED unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.