

First Unitarian Society of Ithaca

Board of Trustees Meeting

December 12, 2017

Agenda Item # 1: Opening

President Laura Free called the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees (BoT) to order at 6:07 pm, December 12, 2017. A quorum (5 or more) was present being a majority of the full board (currently 8). Laura provided a reading during the chalice lighting.

Trustees Present:

Marie Benedetti	Oliver Habicht (Clerk)	Whitney Wiggins (VP)
Laura Free (President)	Jennifer Streid-Mullen (Treas.)	Angela Zhang

Trustees Absent:

Scott Grover	Wendy Salomon
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FUSIT Members & Guests:

Fred Balfour (Scribe)	Mark Pedersen, Admin	Rev. Margaret Weis, Minister (via Zoom)
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Handouts:

1. Memo: TO: All Board Members; FROM: Mark Pedersen; RE: Enclosures. (Memo includes current and last year's pledge amounts, and current membership count and changes.
2. Board agenda 11/14/17; Weekly Record of Attendance.
3. BoT Minutes 11/14/17. *Title: First Unitarian Society of Ithaca; Board of Trustees Meeting; November 14, 2017*
4. Financial Reports through 11/30/17: *Title: First Unitarian Society of Ithaca; Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual; July through November 2017*
5. Ministry report for December 2017. Including:
 - a. Minister's Report - December 2017;
 - b. RE Report to Ministry (RE Team Meeting Notes 11/7);
 - c. Membership Report; Beth Pallace; December 6, 2017.
6. RE Team Job Description. *Title: First Unitarian Society of Ithaca - RE Council Member Job Description - (Draft 12/5/17).*
7. B&G Job Description. *Title: First Unitarian Society of Ithaca - Buildings and Grounds Team Member Job Description.*

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the board meeting conducted on November 14, 2017 were presented.

Motion: Approve the minutes. **PASSED.**

Agenda Item # 2: Upcoming Dates

Date	Event	Comments
Jan. 9, '18	Regular BoT meeting	6:00 pm
Jan 30, '18	Balcony Meeting	6:00 pm

Agenda Item # 3: Unsung Heroes

Andrew Quagliata	Dec. 10, 2017 sermon: "A Letter to my Daughter about Hope"
Sandy Soule (sexton)	His loving and attentive care of our facility, day-in and day-out.

Agenda Item # 4: Board Members Signing Up for Team Leader Council (TLC) Rotation

Laura reviewed the item by observing that:

- Regular BoT representation at the TLC will keep the board up-to-date;
- BOT representation is part of the organization adapting Partnership Governance processes.

Trustee discussion included:

- Oliver and Jennifer attended the December TLC;
- Jennifer will attend all TLC meetings during the budget cycle.

The board consensus is that Oliver should devise a sign-up system similar to the Sunday morning plate count participation.

Current assignments for TLC attendance

Date	Rotating Trustee	Special meeting Trustee
Jan. 10, '18; 6pm	Wendy Salomon	Jennifer Streid-Mullen (budget cycle)
Feb 7, '18; 6pm	Marie Benedetti	Jennifer Streid-Mullen (budget cycle)
Mar. 13, '18; 6pm	TBD	Jennifer Streid-Mullen (budget cycle)
Apr. 11, '18; 6pm	TBD	Jennifer Streid-Mullen (budget cycle)
May ??	TBD	Jennifer Streid-Mullen (budget cycle)

Agenda Item # 5: Financial Report

Jennifer reported that there were no changes in the financial situation since Nov. 14, 2017 BoT meeting.

Agenda Item # 6: BOT Job Description

Using previously developed BoT job description as a base and projected for all to see together, discussed desired changes with Laura leading and taking notes. The further refined draft document will be available as a handout at the January 2018 meeting.

Agenda Item # 7: Debrief Dec. 3, 2017 Start-up session with Evin Carvill-Ziemer.

See also documents currently titled:

- “Notes from Start-Up with Evin Carrill-Ziemer DRAFT”, a PDF derived from a spreadsheet source.
- “Debrief notes of 2017-12-12 regarding Dec 3 Evin Carvill-Ziemer Start-up”, an editable Google Doc.

Lively interchange ensued. Loved the meeting, valuable to look at our past, which represented 2/3rds of the session’s time.

- Identified need to tap new people to start on Teams and Board. How to relieve “old hands’ and give long-standing society members some relief.
- Ministry vs Minister discussion ensued. Rev. Margaret shared her typical week schedule using format of “morning/afternoon/evening”.
- General support for the idea of a (new) Quarterly Leaders Meeting + Dinner. Consider first one perhaps the week of March 27. As with Start-up, again bringing together leaders of the Board (including their committees’ leaders) and Ministry (including staff and Team leaders).

Agenda Item # 8: Vision of Ministry - What have we gotten so far?

Laura observed that congregational input is coming in, but slowly. E.G. “Breakfast with Board” had two people show up. Need to continue outreach, perhaps using a post-it notes approach.

Trustee comments included:

- Poor People’s Ministry - FUSIT should consider a core group to work with this movement.
 - Consider FUSIT members at the Dec. 11, 2018 meeting at Ithaca Baptist church.
 - Should Social Justice Council handle this activity?
- Board should consider congregational service projects.
 - Board needs to engage the congregation in choosing priorities.
 - Consider Mark Piechota’s “four corners” approach

Laura wrapped up by observing that our priorities might revolve around:

- Advocacy
- Education
- Direct service.

Agenda Item # 9: Update on new board member possibilities

Laura reported that the nominating committee is working to find candidates for filling the BoT vacancy created when Rick Hendrick resigned due to leaving Ithaca.

Laura noted that Whitney has asked to resign from the board vice president role, and thus also the Executive Committee.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:59 pm