

First Unitarian Society of Ithaca

Board of Trustees Meeting

01/08/2019

President Angela Zhang called the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees (BoT) to order at 5:40 pm on Tuesday, January 8, 2019.

Trustees Present:

Marie Benedetti, Matt Hare, Wendy Salomon, Andy Turner, Whitney Wiggins, Kim Wilkinson (arrived at 6:05pm), Angela Zhang (President)

Trustees Absent:

Oliver Habicht (Clerk), Jennifer Streid-Mullen (Treasurer),

A quorum was present being a majority of the full Board (currently nine members).

FUSIT Members & Guests:

Rev. Margaret Weis (via Zoom conference), Beth Howard (Scribe)

Handouts: none

Agenda Item # 1: Opening Reading and Minutes Approval

Marie Benedetti lit the chalice and read a selection.

MOTION: Approve the revised BoT December, 2018 meeting minutes. **PASSED.** (Some Board discussion details were moved to Active & Monitoring for tracking and clarity of meeting minutes.)

Agenda Item # 2: Upcoming Dates

Date	Event	Comments
Jan 19 (Sat)	Game Night (4-9pm)	Note time has been expanded from that previously announced.
May 3-4 (Fri-Sat)	Seaway Gathering (UUA Central East Region meeting)	Rev. Weis will give more details in her report

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Agenda Item # 3: Unsung Heroes for January 2018

Nancy Miller and the Care Team	Coordinating visits to a member in hospice
Molly Robbins	Hosting FUSIT Christmas Day dinner

Agenda Item # 4: Debriefing on RE Visioning workshop with Kim Sweeney

Rev Weis was pleased with the event, the turnout (total of 90-100 people), and especially the fact that some who attended do not have children in the RE program. Good engagement by all. One notable concern is the separation of the children from the rest of the congregation, which is an issue with many congregations. Sessions were educational, thought-provoking, had a very positive tone, and highlighted our mission and our strengths. Kim Sweeney's leadership and perspectives were valuable. Some essential voices were lacking - notably parents with young children. Will try to capture some of their input at the upcoming game night. This was a beginning, giving input for future implementation of RE. (Detailed notes were taken during the event by Marie Benedetti and Rev. Margaret.)

Agenda Item # 5: Finalize Vision of Ministry 2019-2020

Discussion included many references to concepts from the Visioning weekend, particularly those of "faith formation", "shared ministry", and "long term spiritual home". The concept of "faith formation" is problematic for some in our congregation and may need some support and education, especially for those who weren't at the Visioning.

Matt Hare, Andy Turner, and Kim Wilkinson will start with the tentative language below and create the draft Vision of Ministry for 2019-2020. The draft will be sent via email to all Board members for review prior to a vote for approval at the February 2019 Board meeting.

Tentative Language:

In the year 2019-20, FUSIT will work to:

1. Connect: multigenerational, shared ministry
2. Inspire: lifelong faith formation both for individuals and as a congregation
3. Engage: Strengthen social justice actions based on UU principles
4. Project the UU voice in Ithaca in a proactive way

Agenda Item # 6: Stewardship leadership status update

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Margaret reported on meeting with stewardship team - discussion included handling of tasks that Mark Pedersen did in the past, how to make giving easier and giving opportunities more visible. Current leadership of stewardship is good. David Salomon is willing to continue in his leadership role, along with new Co-Chair Sharon Costianes.

Agenda Item # 7: Update on Strategic Planning -- new timeline

The process of design/planning for FUSIT strategic planning will be moved to a new committee of 3 (Angela Zhang, Matt Hare, and Don Barber). Charge for the committee needs to come from the board. The committee will have the Spring to come up with a process for the strategic planning that will happen for the following year. A draft charge will be written by Matt and Angela for circulation before the next board meeting, with the goal of a board vote in February.

Agenda Item # 8: Board leadership transition process

Angela Zhang presented concerns about FUSIT Board leadership transition and the timeline related to discussing and identifying new leadership each year. In recent years, and possibly longer, the Board Vice President became the Board President when the President's term finished. It has been somewhat challenging to find anyone willing to serve as Board President or Vice President. There was general agreement that it would best for the Board President NOT be in the last year of their term, so that they would still be on the Board to support the transition to the next president. Board members were asked to think about what role/additional responsibilities they may be able to take on for the 2019-2020 year (beginning July 1, 2019) . Jennifer Streid-Mullen's Board term will end in June 2019, but she will continue as FUSIT Treasurer. Other Board terms ending June 2019 include Marie Benedetti and Whitney Wiggins.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Minutes taken by Beth Howard, scribe
January 8, 2019