

MINUTES
First Unitarian Society of Ithaca
Board of Trustees Meeting
May 14, 2019

President Angela Zhang called the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees (BoT) to order at 6:01pm on Tuesday May 14, 2019

Trustees Present:

Marie Benedetti, Matt Hare (arrived 6:12 pm), Wendy Salomon, Jennifer Streid-Mullen (Treasurer), Andy Turner (Vice President), Whitney Wiggins (Acting Clerk), Kim Wilkinson, Angela Zhang (President). *A quorum was present (majority of the full Board).*

Trustees Absent:

Oliver Habicht (Clerk)

Rev. Margaret Weis was also absent due to illness.

FUSIT Members & Guests:

Elton Hall and Diana Nier (Prospective Board Members), Beth Howard (Scribe)

Distributed Materials

Electronic:

Meeting Agenda

April Meeting Minutes (2019-04-14-BoT_Minutes)

Minister's Report

Agenda Item # 1: Opening Reading and Minutes Approval

Marie Benedetti lit the chalice and read a selection.

MOTION: Approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of April 9, 2019. **PASSED**

Agenda Item # 2: Upcoming Dates

Saturday, 5/18/2019: Spring Cleaning Day

Sunday, 5/19/2019: UU Book Fair

Sunday, 5/19/2019: Congregational Conversation on the Budget

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Wednesday, 5/29/2019: Annual Meeting of the Membership

Thursday, 5/30/2019: Ithaca Festival Parade

Friday & Saturday, 5/31-6/1/2019: table at Ithaca Festival

Saturday, 8/10/2019: Summer Gathering at the Ellis Hollow Community Center (in conjunction with Mark Rides On Team Practice)

Agenda Item # 3: Unsung Heroes for the Month

Nominees offered by the Board:

Jane McArthur and Babies First for offering flowers for the mothers in the congregation on Mothers' Day, and all their charitable work on behalf of the Society.

Stewardship Team for hard work and successful pledge drive. The pledge goal was met which makes finalizing the operational budget much easier.

Agenda Item # 4: Financial Report

Treasurer Jennifer Streid-Mullen presented an overview of current financial situation.

2018-2019 expenses were lower than budgeted due to loss of Congregational Administrator and Director of Religious Education/Exploration. Board discussed handling of the excess revenue: allocate to buildings and grounds for project, return to Endowment Fund, create a public response fund to react to events, fund a special project to inspire/engage. Rev. Margaret Weis was not present; Jennifer Streid-Mullen will bring the issue to her attention. The congregation must approve the total amount of budgetary spending, but the Minister is authorized to move money between budget line items without getting specific authorization. The Board will consider creating a policy to outline handling of excess/unspent funds.

The Endowment Committee has advised they would like to reduce the endowment fund's contribution/support of the annual operating budget.

2019-2020 pledge income is higher than expected for this point in the stewardship season. A single donor has been very generous and thus next year's revenue will cover expenses. The Board agreed that the congregation should be educated about the disproportionate amount of revenue coming from a small number of donors. The Board will work with the Stewardship Team to determine how to present the information.

Agenda Item # 5: Minister's Report:

(See written report.)

Rev. Margaret is not present. Angela Zhang advised that Margaret is planning a Board-Staff retreat in August.

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The Safety Team continues to work on policy updates. The building doors will now be locked at 7:30pm. Anyone leaving the building after that time is asked to lock the doors if they are open.

Agenda Item # 6: Revised Personnel Policy

Personnel Committee has submitted policy revisions for review and approval. Board agreed to postpone approval until Rev. Margaret is present and has the opportunity to comment. The Board recommends that FUSIT consult an attorney, after verifying related expenses.

Agenda Item # 7: Update from Ad hoc Strategic Planning Committee; approve Committee charge

Board member Matt Hare provided an update on committee nominees as well as the draft charge for the Strategic Planning Committee.

The Board discussed the draft and made final revisions.

MOTION: Approve the Charge for 2019-20 Strategic Planning Committee. **PASSED**

Agenda Item # 8: Annual Meeting Agenda and Preparations

Angela Zhang presented a draft agenda for the Annual Meeting, which she created with Rev. Margaret. They will make a joint presentation to the Congregation reviewing highlights of the year 2018-2019.

There are three Board of Trustees candidates for the ballot, and one for Nominating Committee.

Agenda Item # 9: Board Self Evaluation

Angela presented the results of the Board's self-evaluation for the year. The evaluation was recently completed by all but one Board member (who has been absent from active Board duty much of the year due to health concerns). In the short time available, the Board discussed the report, its value and limitations, and will consider it more closely at its retreat in August.

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Potential membership on the next year's Executive Committee of the Board (President, Vice-President, and Clerk) was also discussed. Jennifer will be stepping down from the Board this summer, but has agreed to continue as Treasurer.

Agenda Item # 10: Ministry evaluation and Governance Committee

Item tabled to next meeting, due to lack of time.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 pm

Minutes taken by Beth Howard, scribe

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