

First Unitarian Society of Ithaca

Board of Trustees Meeting

June 9, 2020

President Andy Turner called the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees (BoT) to order at 6:03 pm on Tuesday, June 9, 2020.

Trustees Present:

Andy Turner (President), Wendy Salomon (Vice President), Matt Hare (Clerk & Scribe), Elton Hall, Diana Nier, Lyn Staack, Jennifer Streid-Mullen (ex-officio; Treasurer), Rev. Margaret Weis (ex-officio; minister), Kim Wilkinson, Angela Zhang
(all via Zoom due to covid-19)

Trustees Absent:

None. A quorum was present being a majority of the full Board (currently eight members).

FUSIT Members & Guests:

Arthur Woll, Chair Nominating Committee

Handouts:

Minister Report, Budget summary

Agenda Item # 1: Opening Reading and Minutes Approval

Reverend Margaret lit the chalice and Angela Zhang read a selection

MOTION: Approve the BoT May 15, 2020 meeting minutes shown as “2020-05-12 - BoT_Minutes” in Google Docs “BoT” folder as of the date and time of this meeting.

PASSED unanimously.

Agenda Item # 2: Upcoming Dates

Date	Event	Comments
06/07	Flower Communion	Sunday Service
06/10	Vespers service	Holding the Pieces Together
06/14	Bridging Ceremony	Sunday Service
06/17	Annual Meeting, 5 pm	Zoom Meeting ID: 899 4720 0292

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06/24-28	UUA General Assembly	(virtual)
First Wed. 6-8 pm on Zoom	UUA Common Read Book Group Discussion; preregister by email to Rev. Margaret	July 1, An Indigenous Peoples' History of the US August 5, Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption Sept. 2, Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning and Connection for the America We Want

Agenda Item # 3: Unsung Heroes for April-May 2019

Small group ministry leaders	A successful year and organizing for more groups
Jens & Nancy	Looking at death in the time of COVID 19

Agenda Item # 4: Minister's Report

- Letter in the works for communicating antiracism response and inviting the congregation to work together. Intended as leadership speaking to congregation.
- MOTION to accept the revised letter from Elton, 2nd by Lyn. **PASSED unanimously.**

Agenda Item # 5: Treasurer Report

- n=12 at each finance congregational conversation (2 meetings, ~24 total)
- Even with PPP loan, \$7000 negative for this year due to recent changes; still not worrisome
- Stepping Stones tenant is trying to reopen, plans to pay rent, possibly needs additional space for short term
- The 20-21 Budget has been revised to reflect:
 - Furlough of Choir for half year
 - Reduction of non-preschool rental income by 50% (preschool is assumed paid to us 100%).
 - Pledges at \$330,000. We are at \$325,000 now. If pledges come in higher, we will reduce use of the 19-20 rollover.
 - Xmas Eve income and expenses reduction. These are a wash, but are a signal that we know Xmas Eve won't be "normal." Tomorrow I will speak in those terms, and not say anything about the availability of Sage

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Chapel....just that with COVID, we won't have the same turnout as in past years. Raising the Sage issue while we discuss budget will just be a diversion and depressing for everyone.

- Various small expense reductions given that we won't be in person for at least 6 months. This year we have not seen much savings in utilities, so I assume that continues next year.
- Need formal vote for Board support of budget proposal of June 1 with revenue of 472K. Diana moved, second by Kim Wilkinson. **PASSED unanimously.**
- Jennifer will stay on as treasurer for one more year.

Agenda Item # 6: Board annual review & Evaluation

- Board evaluation process is only a few years old, not consistent. May be good to formalize the process. Governance committee could be formed to oversee policy book and evaluation process.
- Google questionnaire filled out by all 8 BoT members.
- There is good information for discussion at summer retreat

Agenda Item # 7: Nominating Committee - Arthur Woll

- Simon Catterall has agreed to nomination for 3 year term
- Include his bio with distribution of annual report
- Board meeting time schedule conflict - is the board meeting time flexible?
General sentiment that the Board wants to try to accommodate scheduling needs by members and nominees
- How to fill remaining seats? General call for 3 year nominees at annual meeting?
And 1 year terms?
- Maybe better to do call during a Sunday service rather than at annual meeting.
Wendy will make an invitation at Sunday service.
- Thanks expressed to Arthur and the Nominating Committee for his/their work.

Agenda Item # 8: Triennial Evaluation of Minister - Process

- Process developed by Wendy, Angela and Andy. Consulted with Rev. Margaret.
- Subcommittee of 3: Angela Zhang, Magdalen Lindeburg and Laura Free. Two past presidents and Magdalen was on Minister Search Committee.
- Shoot for having all feedback in hand by July 2020. Write up by end of August.

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- Motion to approve this 3 member committee and process, Diana moved, 2nd by Kim Wilkinson. **PASSED unanimously**

Agenda Item # 9: Leadership roles

- Matt and Andy willing to stay in their roles, so we need a vice president. Both feel flexible about their leadership role next year.
- Board is losing two of our most experienced members, and doesn't have Mark as congregational historian
- Need to find assistant treasurer to work with Jennifer

Agenda Item # 10: DRE update (Kim Wilkinson)

- 2 rounds of interviews done, nearing a decision

Agenda Item # 11: Safety & reopening planning (Rev. Margaret)

- Rev. Margaret is meeting with AV consultants about infrastructure
- Call to safety and other ministry teams asking for service on ad hoc team to address reopening process.
- Probably worthwhile to do an open call for volunteers
- Lyn offered to help

Agenda Item # 12: Planning annual meeting - Zoom

- Good initial planning meeting mapping out Zoom voting strategy (Rev. Margaret, Susan Weis, Matt Hare, Andy Turner, ??)
- Sending Zoom link to members only
- Google doc description of plan will be circulated for review
- Practice session on June 16 available
- 5 pm is not an ideal start time, but let's stick with it.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Minutes taken by Matt Hare

May 12, 2020