

## Minutes of the First Unitarian Board of Trustees

November 12, 2015

Present: Schultz, Philby, Loder, Bailey, Evans, Bundt, Rommes, Stimson, Kaldenberg

Staff: Stringer, Dessert

Absent: Ahern

I. President Jean Rommes called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM with the chalice lighting and opening words.

II. Vote on New Board Members

Shelly Kaldenberg and Mike Stimson stepped out of the meeting so the board could discuss and vote on their appointments to the board. Zac moved to nominate both Mike and Shelly, Katy seconded. All board members approved. Mike will fill Charlie's term until June 2016 and would be eligible to run as a Board member in June 2016, Shelly will fill Jackie Johansen's position for a 3-year term.

III. Report from Erin and Mark on BLM Issue

There was discussion as to whether the congregation needs more time to discuss the BLM issue or if a vote can be taken. There was further discussion as to whether the board needed to discuss the issue further. Steve asked if it's an issue the executive simply moves on without congregational or board approval, or whether a vote by the congregation was necessary. Mark voiced support for congregational discussion and a vote. He referenced an unnamed council member who said they were happy to have the discussion about the issue and have time to consider the issue. There was broad consensus by the board for congregational discussion.

Brandon asked what outcomes have resulted from the Circles discussions. Mark said there has not been a report back yet from Erin because the discussions are ongoing.

IV. AI Sessions

It was stated that the turnout numbers have been a little disappointing, however a few sessions have been rescheduled.

Regarding feedback, there were mixed responses from participants. Some said sessions were too long, some said just right.

Margaret mentioned that it was good to see non-members involved.

Jean mentioned Harvey Harrison wrote a 3-page letter with further questions, and brought the letter to the meeting.

Katy asked if we could integrate a sermon and an AI session to improve participation, but it was generally agreed that it would not work logistically.

Mark would like to get Laura's perspective, but believes we're getting lots of good feedback.

Margaret – Should the board debrief with the facilitators after the last sessions? Perhaps even before? There was broad support by the board to debrief with the facilitators prior to the last session.

Jean will call Laura to see if she's available the following week.

#### V. Nominating Process

Jean – There should be more of a "courtship" with potential board candidates. More proactive in identifying those candidates. Now that Charlie's gone, who will join the nominating committee?

Still need one on ministerial review committee, one on nominating committee

All sub-committee will take place as "lay" Connections members.

Katy is now the only one on Connections committee (Jackie and Charlie gone)

Mark – Board should visit with the councilors to get ideas for candidates.

Mike will join Zac and Brandon on nominating, Zac will lead the committee.

Zac – Is there a conflict of interest to have a potential nominee (Mike) on the nominating committee?

Margaret suggested switching with Mike. Both Ross and Mike voiced their support for the suggestion.

Nominating: Margaret, Brandon, Zac

Zac and Brandon will team up as joint secretaries

Ross: Moved to approve the slate of nominations, Katy seconded, all board members approve.

Margaret has posters, values, wishes, evaluations from each AI session, everything will be transcribed as-is.

#### VI. Ordination

Linda Barnes has passed all the necessary steps to get to fellowship, meaning she can be a part of the UUA search process. The board will recognize her achievement prior to the more formal ceremony in April 2016.

Zac – Motion to approve Linda for ordination. Ross second. All board members approve.

#### VII. Executive Report

Brandon – Question about the online Soul Matters group. Would like to participate once plans are firmed up.

Mark – Linda Barnes has experience with distance learning and will head up an online experiment.

Mark – About 50 people at the workshop on Saturday (11/7?). Great response from attendees. Good mix of participants.

The board engaged in conversation regarding how Caring Ministry will transform. How do people ask for help? How do people find out what the needs are?

Mark - Neighborhood model not working right now. Time to look at doing things differently.

Ross – Days for Girls program a very positive step forward.

October Meeting Minutes adjustment (BLM issue) and approval

The board agreed that Charlie Ahern’s transcription of the October minutes needed to be revised to more accurately reflect the discussion of the BLM issue. It was determined the board would cut out the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph. The board asked Mark to explore the BLM issue further and come back with a recommendation.

One other change was made to the minutes. Per the line: **Financial reports for September 30<sup>th</sup> were not ready.** September was changed to October as the original wording was inaccurate.

Brandon – Move to accept changes, Margaret second. All board members approve.

Endowment Nominees – Zac & Margaret will huddle.

7:12pm Adjourned