

Board of Trustees' Meeting Minutes for 5-19-2023 on Zoom

In Attendance: Danielle Jeanloz, Tracy Johnson, Ed Mangiafico, Jon Nye, Naomi Turner, Liz Van Wye, and Joe Zahka. Greg Heyl was absent. Guests included: Beth Avery, Sue Bauer, and Joan Caputo.

Meeting started at 4:03 pm with Tracy's opening words.

April 21, 2023 Board of Trustee Minutes were unanimously approved.

Minister's report – Tracy acknowledges the many activities and ongoing concerns with communication. Liz asked that the board report to the congregation regularly during the Sunday service to improve communication. Ed recommended we add this proposal to our agenda under "New Business." Tracy encourages the Board to participate in the June 21-25 UUA General Assembly which can be attended in person in Pittsburgh or by Zoom.

Treasurer's Report: Joe reviewed that whereas pledges were weak in April they increased in May, and therefore our finances look good for the year, especially since expenses have been low. We currently have 52 pledges (about 10 fewer than last year) totaling about \$97, 900 which will produce a balanced budget for the coming year.

Rentals – It takes about 3 hours of discussion and correspondence, knowledge of equipment, time to open/close the building. Joe hopes to find a volunteer to handle this.

President's Report: Ed announced that Scott Tayler's wife, Kaaren Anderson, has now been appointed as the interim Brewster First Parish Minister; Scott Tayler will be moving up in this area with Kaaren in August. Jon discussed the possibility that some could find our continuing to work with him as presenting a conflict of interest – not "legally" but more from a "perception" point of view. The board discussed the plusses and minuses of maintaining Scott as a consultant with his wife as a local minister. The group concluded that if we continued to do so, both UUMH and Brewster First Parish would need to be comfortable with the agreement. Tracy will talk to Scott on the perception of a conflict of interest (his and our potential concerns). What are his feelings? Would Kaaren's position change how Scott would work with us and what he can do for us?

Our annual Meeting is scheduled for June 18. Ed will produce the warrant which Danielle will send out by email at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting. Danielle will also post the warrant and any reports she receives onto the website. Committee reports should be emailed to her by June 4 and Sue will notify the committees. Sue mentioned that the Program Council has been at UUMH for 18 years and that she has been the Chair for most of that time. According to Scott Tayler, no UU church with fewer than 200 members has a Council in addition to a Board. Sue has agreed to help the Council temporarily while we review our current overall structure. The Board understands that the Nominating Committee will reflect this willingness in its proposal.

Jon – The Steering Committee meeting with Scott Tayler resulted in mixed ideas and no clear consensus of what we want to accomplish. He reviewed the pros and cons of having a Steering Committee. Without a Steering Committee, however, would the board meet often enough to make adequate progress with a consultant? Should we continue with Scott or hold off for a while? What do we want to accomplish by working with a

consultant? We need to clarify what we can expect from a consultant and Scott needs to explain what he can do.

Joe - 2 out of 3 Cusp Goals are met so far:

We have a Search Committee,
Programs are being developed,
Partnering or reorganizing is now what needs our focus.

Liz suggested, and Ed agreed, that we all should write a brief sentence or two: What do we want from a consultant? Email to the whole board, By Monday.

A motion to have the board, rather than a steering committee, work with a consultant to help us move forward was carried by a majority of the board, with the understanding we will continue to review and evaluate progress.

The Search Committee hopes to focus on who we are and what we want with the entire Congregation through a survey and discussion scheduled for August.

Jon reviewed the Boy Scouts' provisions including the local handling of finances, which differ from those the Board initially considered. Joe, as Treasurer, does not think it's a problem to manage.

Joe – Regarding the solar panel installation and recognition, he suggested framing two pictures: A picture of the power meter with the McClennens, and one of the solar panels. Naomi or Danielle will find out if the McClennens agree to the photographs and when they are available for us to recognize them.

New Business:

Joe asked the Board for approval for First Night to use our building and it was unanimously approved.

Liz brought up the need for improved communication by the board with the congregation, with at least one item shared weekly at the service when possible, starting immediately. All agreed that we would make the effort.

Next meeting: June 16, 4 pm on Zoom, the last meeting of the year, 2 days before the annual meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm

Submitted by Danielle Jeanloz