

Board of Trustees' Meeting Minutes for 2-17-2023 on Zoom

In Attendance: Sue Bauer, Greg Heyl, Danielle Jeanloz, Tracy Johnson, Ed Mangiafico, Jon Nye, Naomi Turner, and Joe Zahka. Liz Van Wye was absent. Guests, Gail Eldredge and Thad Eldredge attended.

Meeting started at 4:01pm with Tracy's opening words.

Approval of the January Board of Trustee Minutes, 5 approved, Naomi abstained.

Tracy – Minister's report. Tracy described the UUA Common Read program, when a book is selected annually by the UUA to be discussed in small groups or as a congregation. We can also invite others outside the congregation. Naomi suggested that we open it up to others and Tracy is considering this.

Joe - Treasurer's Report. Finances continue to look good; interest is now earned on our bank accounts. Joe recommended actions to be made regarding Stewardship. The Finance Committee will work on a new budget. Tracy mentioned that she is planning a service on Stewardship on the last Sunday in March.

Gail Eldredge asked the board to consider sponsoring the local chapter of the Boy Scouts of America. The Methodist Church was sponsoring the organization nationally but asked their churches to no longer do so due to the controversies of the past few years. The Boy Scouts have renamed themselves Scouting of America as they are trying to reestablish themselves since their bankruptcy. Tracy is looking into UUA's position on supporting the Scouts. Some of the benefits under consideration include the opportunity to reach out to the youth in our community and that many of the sponsorship requirements are already being handled by the town (such as the building) and by the Eldredges who are actively involved locally. Jon is looking into the effect of sponsorship on our insurance. Greg mentioned concerns about how inclusive and transparent their current leadership is now? While the Scouts current local charter ends at the end of February, there is flexibility as to when a new sponsor would need to take over. The Board will wait for more answers from Board members before making a decision.

Ed discussed communication and wants honesty and transparency within the Board of Trustees and the Congregation. He mentioned that the Cusp group was well organized, but that now decisions need to be made by both the Board of Trustees and the Program Council. Our Minister is also included and tasked to help the congregation work through the issues.

Naomi reviewed a document she sent by email to the Board of Trustees prior to the meeting reviewing her concerns about communication, the Cusp process, and exploring the possibilities of working with Scott Taylor, from Soul Matters. Ed apologized to her about sending confusing messages in his emails to her and other members of the board. He encouraged her to get a small group of people including Sue (as Program Council Chair), and Tracy (as our minister) to follow up with Scott.

Ed has found search Committee Chair: Liz Van and Dave Van Wye will co-chair the committee.

Ed mentioned that Terry Eldredge was considering Stewardship Chair but is unable to do it for the moment. Ed will continue to look for someone. Since we do not have a chair, Joe suggested that Ed and Tracy work on updating the annual appeal letter what was drafted last year. Ed agreed to do so. Tracy suggested that some of our new members have finance experience and might be included in Stewardship, not necessarily as Stewardship Chair, but assisting with our letter. The Board discussed the merit of making phone calls for Stewardship.

Joe reviewed the meeting with Brewster First Parish and learning that their group is a much larger organization than ours. Barnstable and other churches may be more comparable in size to us. Naomi talked about working with Brewster FP in other ways such as having readings together.

Naomi reconfirmed that she can move forward on following up with Scott Taylor about sending material and meet as a small group. The Board agreed.

Sue was enthusiastic about her recent Program Council meeting which generated lots of ideas.

Board discussed conducting a conflict resolution workshop for the Board, possibly as a mini workshop. Ed recommended, and the Board agreed, that this consideration be discussed at the beginning of the next meeting.

The next meeting is on Monday, March 27 and will be in person in the Fleck room with use of the "Owl" camera for those who cannot attend in person.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm

Minutes submitted by Danielle Jeanloz