

The Unitarian Church in Westport is a diverse and welcoming religious community, free of creed and dogma, and open to people of all backgrounds and beliefs.

WE INSPIRE and support individual spiritual growth.

WE CONNECT through worship, music, learning, and caring ministries.

WE ACT in the service of peace and justice.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

January 13, 2014

Trustees present: Steve Axthelm, Randy Burnham, Chuck Colletti, Denny Davidoff, Roberta Finklestein (ex officio), Michelle Garvey, Lyn Hamilton, Sal Mollica, Ken Vogel, Ted Yang

Trustees absent: Bobbie Herman, Laura Steinbrecher

YRSC observers and participants: Catherine Onyemelukwe, Mary Jane Cross, John Mason

HR Committee observers and participants: Marti Bishop, Neil Coleman, Jeff Lundberg

Observer: Diana Bell

Burnham called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

Following a centering reading by Mollica and a check-in, the Board passed the Consent Agenda, including final approval of the Conflict of Interest Policy and changes to the TUCW retirement agreement with the UUA without discussion.

As addenda to his Treasurer's Report and also new business, Vogel introduced two topics:

1. The Finance Committee intends to put an audit in the 2014-15 budget at an estimated \$7-10,000. Discussion followed regarding paying for it. The audit budget item will be on the February Consent Agenda.
2. The Endowment Committee wishes to spend \$2000 on guest speakers and seeks BOT approval. This item will also be found on the February Consent Agenda.

Catherine Onyemelukwe presented the content for a revised case statement for the Annual Budget Drive which the Board affirmed on a motion by Davidoff, second by Vogel. Following discussion regarding the proposed Giving Guide, Yang moved, Vogel second to affirm it as useful and aspirational for the congregation. Passed.

Following spirited discussion regarding the necessity for commitment of three hours for Visiting Stewards training being offered by Barry Finkelstein, the trustees agreed to be present on either February 22 or March 2.

Davidoff and Colletti updated the Board regarding the installation of an outdoor lift on the west side of the building. Davidoff and Catherine Onyemelukwe are spearheading a drive to raise \$30,000 prior to February 8 to pay for the equipment and installation. Colletti estimates ancillary road, building, and grounds work will entail an additional \$20-30,000. Board members agreed to contribute \$5,000 toward the first \$30,000 and initial commitments from Herman, Vogel, Colletti, Garvey, Burnham, Mollica and Davidoff quickly brought the goal over the top.

Lundberg, Coleman, and Bishop led a discussion regarding the new and comprehensive HR Policy document which had been previously disseminated for review. On a motion to adopt by Colletti, second by Yang, passage was unanimous and enthusiastic.

The Board agreed that the primary goals for the January 27 mini-retreat should be a basic understanding of policy governance and agreement as to what form of governance we would commit to undertake in the coming months.

Axthelm offered process observations.

Davidoff offered closing words.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Taft Davidoff, Clerk