

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

February 10, 2014

Trustees present: Randy Burnham, Denny Davidoff, Michelle Garvey, Lyn Hamilton, Bobbie Herman, Sal Mollica, Laura Steinbrecher, Ken Vogel

Trustees absent: Steve Axthelm, Chuck Colletti, Roberta Finkelstein (ex officio), Ted Yang

Observers and participants: Anne Khanna, Kristen Leddy

Burnham called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM.

Following a centering reading by Herman and a check-in, Kristen Leddy, Chair of the Transition Committee reported to the board that some people in the congregation had expressed concerns regarding the purchase and installation of a lift: poor communication, secret funding, need to replace the entire BOT, etc. An hour long discussion followed as various ways to deal with the criticism were raised and evaluated. Finally, on a motion by Vogel, second Mollica, and passed: **The BOT will call a special meeting of the congregation to discuss and vote on the installation of a hydraulic lift on the west side of the building and the Chair is directed to appoint a task force to set the meeting date and prepare appropriate communications.**

Davidoff reported that checks and pledges totaling \$18,000 have been collected toward the \$29,000+ purchase of the Savaria Lift. The Endowment Committee has indicated willingness to contribute \$10,000 as this constitutes a legitimate capital improvement which is part of their charter.

The Board passed the Consent Agenda, including final approval of the revised Safe Congregations policy.

(Note: The Clerk neglected to include two items that she had indicated would be on the February consent agenda but will be found on the March consent agenda:

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.)

Burnham distributed his compilation of our evaluations of progress on the goals of the interim program to date as well as Finkelstein's own evaluation of the same goals. Brief discussion followed.

Under the heading Next Steps for Governance, it was agreed that the BOT would call a special meeting regarding the lift installation for March, hold two town meetings around specific topics to elicit members' questions and comments in April and May and officially schedule the Annual Meeting for Sunday, June 8. Yang, Vogel and Carrie McEvoy will serve on the Board Policy Task Force, with two additional off-board participants to be recruited. Burnham and Mollica (both leaving the board in June) and Hamiton volunteered to serve on the Board Governance Committee.

Under New Business, a motion to set the 2014 Annual Meeting for June 8 was passed. Mollica offered process observations.

Steinbrecher offered closing words.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Taft Davidoff, Clerk