

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

March 16, 2015

Trustees present: Chuck Colletti, Tom Croarkin, Denny Davidoff, Roberta Finkelstein (ex officio), Michelle Garvey, Bobbie Herman, Anne Khanna, Mary-Jane Cross, Lyn Hamilton, Ted Yang

Trustees absent: Steve Axthelm, Matt Peterson

Observers : Carol Seiple (NLDC), William McEvoy, Randy Burnham

Garvey called the meeting to order at 7:37. Croarkin offered a centering reading.

Garvey presented a Big Question quote “What was the point of belonging to a faith where you could believe whatever you wanted to believe?” Given the length of this meeting’s agenda, we deferred discussion of this topic to next month. Everyone is asked to consider their own answer to this question in preparation for the discussion.

Finkelstein led a discussion on the document she wrote “Is It Governance Or Is It Ministry?”. The board agreed to work toward true policy governance by applying to each matter brought before us the principles discussed: Governance is about fiduciary and strategic questions, providing direction and oversight; Ministry is about implementation, producing programs, taking action.

Passage of the Consent Agenda, minus a Governance Committee update, was moved by Yang, second Cross, and passed.

Khanna’s financial dashboard report was presented. Cross moved, Hamilton second acceptance of the Treasurer’s report. Passed.

Governance committees charters discussion (McEvoy). As part of the transition process, it has been proposed that the following committees, which do governance work, should have direct interaction with the board: Governance, Human Resources, Membership, Building & Grounds, Finance, Year Round Stewardship, Endowment, and Memorial Garden. The initial committee charters were reviewed. It was agreed that Garvey will take responsibility for providing board feedback to the committees. She will enlist individual board members to interact with specific committees.

Constitution amendments meetings update and board ratification of new dates (Cross). The dates approved at the February board meeting for the Constitution Amendments member

meetings (3/8/15 and 3/29/15) Had to be changes because the 3/8 meeting was less than 21 days away at the time of the decision. The Executive Committee, in the interim, voted to change the dates to 3/29 and 4/19 to be in compliance with the Constitutional requirements. Yang moved, Davidoff second, to ratify this change.

April meeting dates. Discussion was held re changing the day for the regular April Board meeting from Monday, 4/20 to a later day of that week, to insure we will have a quorum. Agreed that Cross will send out a Doodle meeting request to find a day during the week of April 20 on which at least 7 (quorum) members can be there. Cross will put a notice in this week's Soundings to confirm the exact day/date for the regular April board meeting.

Khanna requested a shift of the next budget discussion to a week later, to allow her the time to complete a detailed next draft of the 2015-16 proposed budget . Motion by Cross, second Yang, to hold an Executive Session of the board, to discuss the next draft of the 2015-16 budget, on Monday 5/4/15. No other business will be discussed. Passed unanimously.

Candidating Week (Garvey) The MSC proposed two dates for the board to meet with the candidate minister. It was agreed to have a board potluck supper on Sunday, April 26.

Photo Directory update & decision (Khanna) A short discussion was held. It was agreed this is ministry work, and can be deferred at this time. Finkelstein will determine if it will be passed to a staff or volunteer group for later implementation. Khanna will write a short piece for Soundings regarding the deferment.

Communications of Board to congregation - update (Croarkin). Croarkin agreed to write this month's Soundings article explaining the recent building maintenance issues and updating the lift project. He also suggested putting a link to the board minutes in each Soundings.

Preliminary 15-16 Budget Discussion (Khanna). Davidoff moved, Yang second to move into Executive Session for this discussion. Unanimously passed. After the discussion, Cross moved, Yang second to move out of Executive Session. Passed unanimously.

New Business: Lyn Hamilton resigned from the Governance Committee. Board decided to defer appointing a replacement until the new board is seated in June.

Hamilton did process observations and Croarkin offered closing words. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted.

Mary-Jane Cross, Clerk