

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

August 18, 2014

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

Observers and participants: Marti Bishop, Shari Brennan, Randy Burnham, Neil Coleman, Jeff Lundberg, Mary Elizabeth Peterson, Marion Wertheim

Staff present: David Vita

Garvey called the meeting to order at 7:32. Colletti offered a centering piece. Following a check-in, Burnham distributed copies of Peter Steinke's book, *Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times*, a gift/assignment from the Governance Committee.

ME Peterson expressed concern regarding the October 25 Service Auction which does not have nearly enough offerings. She urged all present to help ramp up participation.

Wertheim informed the BOT about plans to bring in landscape experts to advise us about new plantings for the courtyard and church approach. Her estimate for this process is \$7,000.

Brennan introduced herself as an observer from the NLDC who needs to know more about the work done by trustees. She was the sole observer to stay until adjournment.)

Davidoff move, Cross second passage of the Consent Agenda. Passed. Lyn Kobsa and Mark Corcoran are new appointments to the Finance Committee.

The members of the HR Committee received accolades for their work on staff job descriptions. Coleman is leaving the group. Bishop put forth the name of Betty-Lynn White to succeed him. She was officially appointed on a motion by Garvey, second, Croarkin and passed.

M. Peterson will chair the Policy Task Force. Ken Vogel and Ted Yang are carryovers (Yang cannot give this as much time as he would wish.) Two additional off-BOT members need to be recruited.

Khanna led the trustees through a detailed Treasurer's Report including a new dashboard format which she intends to update for ensuing meetings.

Colletti gave a detailed report regarding problems and frustrations with installation of the hydraulic lift, mostly, if not entirely caused by unforeseen policies and procedures required by the Town of Westport's Planning & Zoning Commission. Colletti had prearranged a consultation with Gloria Gouveia at an initial cost of \$500. Once we have her opinion w/o 8/25, and detailed cost information, further decisions can be taken and additional fundraising undertaken. Earliest installation now late fall.

Kristen Leddy attended briefly to explain the need for a Negotiating Committee to draw up a contract with/for the new minister. Anne Khanna and Ted Yang were appointed as the BOT members on a motion by Garvey, second Cross. A subsequent motion by Davidoff, second Axthelm, appointed Khanna and Yang to draw up a contract letter for/with Ed Thompson.

After a very full discussion of what can be done to recoup unpaid pledges and promote expanded giving to protect and fund the operating budget, immediate tasks undertaken: Axthelm will write a message for SOUNDINGS (deadline 8/28), Croarkin will write a letter to be sent to lapsed pledgers, Garvey will prepare an e-mail to people who may not have completed their pledge and don't know it. Trustees agreed on the need for reconstituting leadership and continued nurturance of the YRSC.

New business: Axthelm once again raised the issue of legacy giving. Garvey will speak to Chuck Harrington. Peterson urged the BOT to take action regarding low fees for the RE program. Garvey will speak to Burnham regarding the outcome of negotiations with the nursery school.

September meeting postponed to September 15 to permit time to digest the outcomes of the 9/6 retreat. EC has tentative breakfast meeting on Monday morning, September 8, to do agenda planning.

Hamilton offered process observations.

Croarkin gave closing words.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Taft Davidoff, Clerk