

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

September 9, 2013, 7:30 PM

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

Staff present: David Vita

Members present: Candace Clinger, Bob Perry, Kristen Leddy

Burnham called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Hamilton read opening words by R.W. Emerson.

Finkelstein led a discussion of materials in Chapters 3-4 of *Governance and Ministry* by Dan Hotchkiss with a considerable amount of give and take regarding the practice of appointing a senior minister as Head of Staff. (Chapters 5 and 6 will be discussed in October.)

Burnham's President's report included a proposal to appoint Finkelstein Head of Staff during her interim ministry years with the congregation. This concept had been pursued by the Interim Minister Search Committee. Trustees decided to revisit the subject in the hour following the retreat on September 14 and possibly to vote on the proposal at that session.

The Consent Agenda including the 8/19/13 BOT minutes, appointment of Anne Khanna as Asst. Treasurer and the interim minister's report was passed. The final Finance Committee report on FY 2013 and the update on insurance coverage for events including children will be on the 10/7/13 Agenda.

Moved: Davidoff, second, Garvey to receive the 9/3/13 Executive Committee minutes and affirm the action taken by the EC regarding Rev. Finkelstein entering into a contract with TAVA Full Circle, LLC which provides expectations and compensation for Jim Francek to plan and facilitate monthly programs at Meadow Ridge. Motion passed.

Yang presented a draft for an official BOT Fundraising Policy. Discussion followed regarding communication with the congregation about this and other new policies to come: information, education and accountability – who does what? Yang, Steinbrecher and Davidoff will act as a task force to make recommendations on these matters working with Finkelstein and John Carroll.

Kristen Leddy and Rev. Finkelstein spoke about the duties of the Interim Minister's Transition Committee and the range of people, skills, representation and availability to be considered in appointing six members of the congregation to serve with Leddy as Chair.

Moved: Yang, second Vogel to approve the list of potential Transition Committee members and to authorize Kristen Leddy to make the necessary appointments. Passed.

The vacancy on the Committee on Ministries will be taken up at the 10/7/13 meeting.

Under New Business, the trustees reexamined the BOT protocols for Sunday worship services including the greeting and announcement functions and UUMatters. There will be no changes for the foreseeable future. Colletti reported an unfortunate failure in the septic system which had cost \$3200 to remedy.

Vogel's process observations included satisfaction with the first half of the meeting agenda when Burnham went around the table for comments on agenda issues but dissatisfaction with our lapse into side conversation and speaking over each other later in the evening.

Steinbrecher offered closing words.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Taft Davidoff, Clerk