

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 15, 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

Trustees absent: Ted Yang

Observers: Bob Hardin (NLDC), Bob Perry (Transition)

Staff present: David Vita

Garvey called the meeting to order at 7:30. Cross offered a centering piece.

Finkelstein led a discussion on goals setting using wisdom from Chapter 7 in "Ministry & Governance". Goals need to be congruent with the church mission!

We are asked to read Chapter 8 for the October meeting.

Colletti requested that the Interim Minister's Report be taken off the consent agenda so that the YRSC could be discussed. Herman move, Croarkin second passage of the Consent Agenda. Passed.

Croarkin is looking in to possible dates for the next Town Hall Meeting - some Sunday after October 12.

Concerns about the future of the YRSC were soberly discussed including the lack of an identified successor to David Smith, diminished committee membership due to significant turnover of YRSC members to board, search, and other elected

positions and Ministerial Search Committee, discomfort with assigning the annual budget drive, among others. Davidoff, Cross and Peterson (maybe Colletti) will attend the YRSC 9/29 meeting seeking discussion and clarification about moving forward.

Khanna updated the new dashboard as her Treasurer's Report. She noted strong pledge income in July, offering plate collections meeting budget expectations, good progress on the 10/25 auction as positive signs. Attendance at worship services is being carefully tracked, the Size Clarity TF has set its first meeting for 9/18, Dorothy Adams is working with the nursery school. Davidoff move, Cross second acceptance of the report. Passed.

Colletti reported on continuing meetings with consultant Gloria Gouveia and presented details of the most recent budget projection for completion of the lift project and final installation. Expenses which had been initially estimated at \$60-65,000 have risen to \$78,750 – an increase of \$18,750. To date, \$12,500 has been paid on pledges of \$54,500 and \$18,600 has been already spent, including the deposit on the lift itself. Discussion was vigorous but the board was not able to come to a conclusion as to next steps. Herman will consult with a few of the original supporters of the project. The matter was tabled to the October meeting on a motion by Cross, seconded by Hamilton.

Garvey and Croarkin reported the results of their separate outreach undertakings to people who have not fully paid their 2014 pledges or did not pledge for 2015. This kind of one-on-one contact appears to have positive results. Next initiatives will include letters of thanks to all who increased their pledges for 2015, letters requested conversation to people who reduced their prior pledges, and a special letter to folks who have not pledged at all but continue to show up.

New business: Garvey reported that Chuck Harrington is too committed to MSC business to head a legacy giving undertaking although he is willing to be a part of it, once organized. Croarkin is joining Hamilton, Randy Burnham and Sal Mollica on the Governance Committee.

Peterson offered complimentary process observations.

Khanna brought closing words on leadership.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Taft Davidoff, Clerk

NOTE: NEXT MEETING IS OCTOBER 20!