

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

December 9, 2013

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

Asst. Treasurer present: Anne Khanna

YRSC observers and participants: Catherine Onyemelukwe, Mary Jane Cross, Sam Khanna, John Mason

Burnham called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

Following a centering reading by Axthelm and a check-in, Burnham led a discussion regarding perceived BOT effectiveness during the transition. He asked "What is it that we are doing well? What might we do better? Some trustees were surprised by the question not having sensed any problem. Some suggested that things are good in terms of relationships with the congregation. Reactivity and transparency and efficiency were mentioned. A minority agreed with Burnham's discomfort viz board work to date. Mollica expressed a sense of impatience about lack of action regarding space and resource issues – we need to "do things".

Catherine Onyemelukwe presented a proposed case statement entitled "Let's Change The Conversation" and a time line for the 2014 budget drive on behalf of her subcommittee colleagues from the YRSC. The discussion that followed was frustrating for both the trustees and the YRSC members present. Some trustees had not seen the report in advance of this meeting. Deadlines are extremely tight. The draft case statement was created in the vacuum caused by the BOT not having presented YRSC with a unifying vision. After a lengthy exchange of disparate views, Axthelm and Vogel agreed to join Burnham, Davidoff, Colletti and Steinbrecher as a board team to work things out with the YRSC folks. **The group has scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, December 17, 7:15 in the Fellowship Room. A concise and cogent case statement rewrite must be completed by the time the BT meets on January 14 if the time line is to hold.**

Davidoff moved, Colletti second to accept the Consent Agenda absent the Conflict of Interest policy. Passed.

The Conflict of Interest current draft will be included on the January Consent Agenda. Suggested change are to be sent directly to Yang in advance.

Herman's proposal to have TUCW install a hydraulic lift at the west side of the building from which members will be able to enter through the door to the Fellowship Room was passed on a motion made by Davidoff, second by Hamilton. Ken Lanouette's engineering firm has vetted the manufacturers of such lifts and recommended Savaria. Sal Mollica, Howard Aibel, Carol Goddard and Dan Valentine have been part of Herman's taskforce during the prior months of research. Going forward, Colletti will pull together a detailed budget for purchase, installation and grounds adjustments while Davidoff concurrently creates a limited funding strategy.

As new business, Finkelstein asked that the Sunday morning greetings by trustees be more standardized and always include self-identification, ask for visitors to raise their hands, no more than three program items. Axthelm will create a sample script to guide us.

Hamilton offered process observations.

Colletti offered closing words.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Taft Davidoff, Clerk