

Minutes TUCW Board of Trustees

Monday June 10, 2013

Present: Steve Axthelm, Randy Burnham, Denny Davidoff, Lyn Hamilton, Bobbie Herman, Michele Garvey, Laura Steinbrecher, Ted Yang

Absent: Chuck Colletti, Sal Mollica, Ken Vogel

Staff: Mary Collins, David Vita

Participants: John Mason, Mary Jane Cross, Cheryl Paul, Mary Elizabeth Peterson

Observers: Elaine McMillan, John Hooper

Meeting called to order by Randy Burnham at 7:34 PM

Meeting began with check-in.

Observers: Elaine McMillan inquired about an updated edition of the congregation directory and whether it will be printed when completed.

Approval 06/03 EC minutes : Moved Davidoff, Second Axthelm. Passed.

Election of Officers: Garvey moved, Hamilton, second Davidoff as Clerk. Passed. Yang moved, Garvey second Vogel as Treasurer. Passed. Davidoff moved, Hamilton, second Yang as Vice Chair. Axthelm moved Mollica as Vice Chair. Absence of second. Axthelm moved, Herman second Garvey as Vice Chair. Yang elected. Hamilton moved, Yang second Burnham as Chair. Passed.

Staff reports: Questions and discussion regarding parking lot repairs. Kudos to Collins for RE Sunday service. Carroll is expected to give BOT a report on the bus rentals at the August meeting.

Rev. Finklestein Housing Allowance: Yang moved, Davidoff second motion to authorize housing allowance of \$54,000 for Rev. Roberta Finklestein for the year commencing August 1, 2013. Passed.

Sheila Lane: Move Yang, second Davidoff: To confirm that Charles Colletti, immediate past Board Chair of The Unitarian Church in Westport, was granted authority to authorize the sale of Sheila Lane 3 in Westport, CT including entering into a contract with Alan T. Hodge and Diana M. Hodge, a copy of which is annexed hereto as Exhibit A. Passed. Move Yang, second Hamilton: The Board of Trustees of The Unitarian Church in Westport, CT hereby authorizes its Chair, Dr.

J. Randolph Burnham, to close on the sale of Sheila Lane 3 in Westport, CT and to sign any and all documents needed to effectuate said sale to Alan T. Hodge and Diana M. Hodge. Passed.

Canvass Results: Mason and Cross reported that 437 pledges have been received for a total of \$689,786. The giving pattern as compared to last year has not changed appreciably – 13% (59) pledges over \$3000, 19% (86) pledges between \$1500 and \$2999, 16% (70) pledges between \$1000 and \$1499. Two thirty-four (234) pledges or 52% pledge under \$500. Observer Mary Elizabeth Peterson expressed great concern that the BOT doesn't "get" the need for professional consulting and, ideally, a staff Development Director.

Annual Meeting assessment: Yang suggested appointment of a skilled Moderator for future congregational meetings. Several trustees endorsed this idea.

Ministerial Transition Committee: Garvey reported that the committee is preparing for the presentation of a cash purse to Rev. Hall and the formal acknowledgement of the Minister Emeritus vote at the 6/9 annual meeting, both to be part of the June 15th celebration.

Interim Minister: Roberta and Barry Finklestein are moving to Westport on or around July 15. Rev. Roberta and the Interim Minister Search Committee are already setting up small meetings (10-12) in the Minister's Office starting in late July. (Air conditioning is being installed.) She will start her work officially on August 4.

Committee on Ministries: Paul delivered what she called a "half way report", mostly recapitulating the COM's meetings with Ed Thompson. The committee is concerned about the reduction in Bernhard Fund income which has adversely affected Thompson's ability to hire professional musicians when needed, the inadequacy of his office – referred to by Paul as "shameful and embarrassing" the lack of heat during cold weather, absence of professional development funding in the operating budget and the COM further recommends that Thompson be included in the search process for the settled minister.

New Business: Herman asked for help in securing the services of a qualified building engineer to look over the various spec sheets she has gathered and make recommendations. Axthelm suggested she speak with Shawn Prichard and ask him about a man named Klaus whose surname he could not recall. Yang raised the need for a policy regarding child care at congregation-wide events. Following

discussion, Yang moved, Davidoff second motion to reiterate the previous policy that congregation-wide events must be inclusive and that a best effort be made to include child care and senior transportation when requested. Passed. Axthelm offered to assist Hall with moving out of his office.

Assignments: Burnham will thank Leddy for her many services. Davidoff will adjust BOT e-mail list to include Steinbrecher and Finklestein.

Process Observations: Steinbrecher asked for an received instructions about the process and then offered praise and critique.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Taft Davidoff, Clerk