

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
December 15, 2015, 6:30 PM

Trustees Present: M Garvey, T Croarkin, MJ Cross, A Khanna, L Shannon, H Aibel, S Axthelm. J Turmelle, Rev. J Morehouse (ex officio)

Observers: D Adams (staff), B Stuck (NLDC), M Bishop (COM), C Colletti (B&G), A Pfluger (COM), W McEvoy (COM), J Mason (COM)

Meeting called to order 6:32. L Shannon offered a centering. Attendees checked in. No observer comments.

MJ Cross / A Khanna moved to transfer the COM and Board nomination vote to the Consent Agenda. Opposed by one member – will leave the nominations on the discussion agenda.

Consent Agenda: **L Shannon / T Croarkin moved to approve the following: passed unanimously**

- November Board minutes

Informational Reports

- Senior Minister report – J Morehouse
- Board Chair report – M Garvey
- B&G Committee report – C Colletti
- November Financial dashboard – A Khanna
- YRSC – M Money
- No new reports –Governance Committee, Endowment

COM (M. Bishop): Requests the board appoint a task force to complete the work of establishing a Covenant of Right Relations for the Congregation. This is unfinished business from our interim ministry with Rev. Roberta Finkelstein. Discussion centered on who needs to organize the congregation task force to write the covenant – board, Senior Minister or full congregation. Agreed the task force should report out the final Covenant for vote of the congregation at a congregational meeting. The task force can bring a draft proposal to the board for review, at their discretion.

S Axthelm / MJ Cross moved to have the board request NLDC, with advice of COM, name the task force. Passed unanimously.

B&G (C Colletti): BOT/B&G Interaction

C Colletti requests a well-defined level of authority to succeed on a project when asked to manage it. It was agreed that the authority requested and granted for any project should fully define the expectations & boundaries. It was also agreed the board will make all reasonable efforts to help the work of the church proceed expeditiously.

Policy Briefing: L Shannon led a Board Study Session on writing Ends Policies. Board policies should focus on the ends and the monitoring of accomplishment (did we change anything?). Good policy is a VISION – Value our values, Imagine the future, Stretch goals, Involve new people, **O**pen your hand and let go of control, **N**o negatives.

Reviewed progress on 2015-16 goals:

1. *Configure Leadership Systems* - Constitution task force will meet early Jan. and will bring recommended changes to the board in Jan. or Feb.

The board reviewed the list of standing committees as shown in the Constitution and agreed to a tentative division of authority:

BOT Committee – Finance, Building & Grounds

BOT & Chief of Staff Committee – Stewardship, Membership

Chief of Staff – Worship, Religious Education, Music,

Social Justice, Human Resources, Communications

2. *5 year Budget Plan* – draft underway.

3. *Clarify Mission/Vision* - The vision task force (T Croarkin, S Poole, C Onyemelukwe) has had one meeting, no date yet for report back.

4. *Implement Best Practices in Governance & Board Process* - Policy writing is underway;

Board Interaction (M Garvey); Postponed to January

Communications (T Croarkin) – Next Soundings article: L Shannon will write on sense of policy government.

Old Business: Stewardship policy – tabled for now. Constitution Task Force – update in January. 2015 member count correction– staff/MJ Cross working on. Finance Policy discussion – moved to January.

New Business: J Morehouse presented year-end congregation appeal letter for board review.

MJ Cross / T Croarkin moved to go into executive session. Passed unanimously. After discussion, A Khanna / MJ Cross moved to go out of exec session. Passed unanimously.

T Croarkin / L Shannon moved to approve KC Senie as a board member to fill out the remainder of L Hamilton’s term (to June 2016). Passed unanimously.

The Board ratified the appointment of M Money & D Smith as co-chairs of YRSC.

The board agreed to postpone nominating a replacement for an upcoming COM vacancy and will have further discussion on the skills needed and desired attributes for COM

candidates in the January meeting.

S Axthelm offered process observation. Trustees did checkout and assignments. M Garvey offered closing words.
Meeting adjourned 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary-Jane Cross, Board Clerk