

Attending: Luke Garvey, Catherine Onyemelukwe, Stapley Emberling, Andy Gundell, Ravi Sankar, Beth Cliff, Wendy Levy, Deb Garskof, and Rev. John Morehouse (ex-officio)

Absent: None

Guests: Rev Ed Thompson, Sharon Poole, Debbie Handler, Elena Rockman-Blake, and John Turmelle

This month's Board meeting is brought to you by **Priority End 1.2.4 – *We become a sustainable, engaged, growing congregation comprised of all generations***

| Agenda/Topic | Discussion | Motions & Votes (M/S/V); Actions |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Opening | L Garvey called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm and shared a prayer from Francis of Assisi as our Opening Reflection. The chalice was lit. | |
| Check-In | Meeting attendees (and guests) checked in. | |
| Consent Agenda | 1. Minutes: October 19, 2021, BOT Meeting | M/S/V: Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Passed. October 2021 Minutes Approved. |
| Congregational Sponsorship | <p>Rev Morehouse introduced the Rev Laurie Anderson, a new member of TUCW and an interfaith Palliative Care Chaplain who is seeking sponsorship from our Congregation to pursue her journey to become a Unitarian Minister. Originally ordained by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in 1996, Laurie has reassessed her path and hopes to be accepted as a clergy transfer to the UU Fellowship, a faith she finds closely aligned with her beliefs and values. She has been an active member of TUCW since 2020.</p> <p>After questions and discussion, the Board welcomed Laurie Anderson as a new member and expressed enthusiasm for her endeavor to join the ranks of many others from our Congregation who have become Unitarian Ministers. A Motion was made to support Congregational Sponsorship for Laurie Anderson.</p> | M/S/V: Motion to Sponsor Laurie Anderson: Passed. |
| Report from the Organ Committee | Sharon Poole, Debbie Handler, and Elena Rockman-Blake joined Rev Ed Thompson in reporting to the Board on their research into the question of whether (and, if so, how) to replace the non-functional electric organ. They submitted a proposal that they wished to bring before the Congregation. The question of what to do about the organ will be a Congregational decision, decided by member vote. There will be ample opportunity for discussion and questions from congregants. The Organ Committee also asserts that, if an organ is to be purchased, the full cost of the organ has already been pledged by several anonymous music lovers within the Congregation, so there would | The Board asked the Organ Committee for further information about any negative consequences of such an acquisition and for further explanation of the research into alternative options. The Board will meet again with the Organ Committee to continue this discussion before the next official Board meeting in December. The Board also wants to learn more about how plans for a new organ (at some point in the future) might affect the current construction project, |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| | <p>be no need to ask for contributions from the Congregation as a whole or to spend any money out of the church's savings or divert funds that would otherwise have gone into the Operating Fund or other church programs.</p> <p>L Garvey and S Poole agreed that it is not the Board's place to vote to Approve or Not Approve a proposal for a new organ, because that decision will be made by the Congregation. The Board's responsibility is to ensure that the Process for bringing the proposal to the Congregation is done correctly and efficiently, in accordance with our Policies and PBG, and to help provide enough opportunities for all interested congregants to speak on the issue and feel heard and satisfied with the process, regardless of the outcome.</p> <p>Rev Morehouse also spoke to say he strongly supports the idea of purchasing an organ, which, he said, would add value to the physical space as well as enrich the musical program and add gravitas to spiritual practice. Rev Morehouse said this is an opportunity to accept a gift that will make a substantial improvement to the church at extremely low, if any, financial cost to the church. Furthermore, he fully endorses the specific small-to-medium-sized pipe organ that the Organ Committee recommends.</p> | <p>especially plans for the stage and chancel in the front of the Sanctuary.</p> <p>The Board will meet first alone on 12/2/21 and together with the Organ Committee on 12/10/21 to discuss options, clarify procedures, and review the answers to our questions. Once the Board is satisfied with the report and presentation, the next step will be for the Organ Committee to introduce the topic and proposal to the Congregation for consideration, discussion, and, eventually, a vote.</p> |
| Update on Building Construction | John Turmelle reported on the progress to date of the new construction project and said that everything is going smoothly. | |
| Sr Minister's Report | Rev Morehouse reported on Priority End 1.2.4. (" <i>We become a sustainable, engaged, growing congregation comprised of all generations</i> ") and on Limitations 3.2 – 3.9. (See the Sr Minister's November 2021 Report on the website.) | |
| Treasurer's Report | S Grathwohl gave the Treasurer's Report and also summarized the work and planning of the Monitoring Team. Revenue is up and expenses are down, due to Rev Morehouse's careful budgeting. However, at this time, collected pledges are \$26K below promised pledge amounts. (See Treasurer's November 2021 Report on the website.) | |
| Information Reports (IR) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Gundell updated the Board on the current status and progress to date of the Tech Team 2. B Cliff and W Levy gave an update on Linkages. Future plans involve three areas of focus: Attitude, Visibility, and Connection. | |
| Name-Change Update | L Garvey, R Sankar, B Cliff and others spoke on lessons learned from the November 5 Town Hall discussion on a possible name-change for TUCW. This was the 6 th Congregational Town Hall meeting on this topic since February 2021. A discussion followed with suggestions for a revised timeline and ideas | The Board has taken the wishes of the November 5 th Town Hall attendees to heart and will allow plenty more time for the Congregation to ruminate on the subject and consider all suggestions for alternate |

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| | for the Name-Change Team on how best to proceed. The Name-Change Team will get together in the next couple of weeks to make a new plan. | names before asking for a vote or even attempting to narrow the list of possibilities. (A list of 16+ suggestions for possible names to replace "The Unitarian Church in Westport" is available upon request from the Board: board@uuwestport.org.) |
| BOT Visibility | L Garvey gave a status report on current levels of Board member interaction with congregants, with goals for improvement. He also gave a summary of his meeting with Chuck Harrington (Chair of the COM) on how the Board might be able to coordinate its Linkage efforts with the COM for greater impact and visibility. | Board members will have opportunities to be Sunday Greeters and to speak briefly at Services, among other activities. |
| Executive Session | Time for Board-only Discussion | |
| Check-Out and Assignments | Members reported out and clarified their individual assignments to be handled before our next meeting. | |
| Process Observer | W Levy commented on how we did as a Board tonight. | |
| Closing Reflection | B Cliff read an excerpt from Anne Lamott's "Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life." | |
| Adjournment | The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm. | Meeting assignments for the monthly meetings are posted on Dropbox and are listed on the agenda. |
| | Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 | |

Respectfully submitted,
 Stapley Emberling,
 Secretary for the Board of Trustees
 November 16, 2021