

## **Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara**

A Loving Community of Seekers: Living with Integrity – Nurturing Wonder – Inspiring Action

### **Board of Trustees Meeting**

January 26, 2016 5:45 PM – 7:30 PM

**Attendees:** Melinda Staveley, Board President; Susan Plummer, Vice President; Keith Strohmaier, Treasurer; Carol Schwyzer, Secretary; Craig Bennett, Eileen Bunning, Bonnie Lassen, Charlene Little, Ted Tazer-Myers, Rev. Julia Hamilton, Lead Minister; Rev. Caitlin Cotter, Assistant Minister, Erin Wilson, Director of Administration

**Process Checker:** Nominating Committee Member Chuck Wolfe

**Time Keeper & Parliamentarian:** Charlene Little

**Guest:** Nancy Murdock

I. **Opening Reading** – Keith Strohmaier “To Be of Use” –Marge Piercy

II. **Check-In**

III **Open Forum** *no guests for Open Forum*

IV **Minutes** – December 15, 2015  
The minutes were accepted without revision.

V. **Policy Governance**

#### **A. Board Forum on RE Visioning** - Rev Caitlin and Rev Julia

The Board will host a forum on February 7 for members of the congregation to begin RE visioning. Rev. Caitlin and a committee are planning this forum. Board members were asked, “What experiences or milestones do we envision for our youth?” “What tools do we want them to have?” “What do we want USSB RE to be known for?” Some responses: covenant of good relations; being able to name feelings and express them with integrity; develop community of trust; acceptance and respect; being of service; how to nurture wonder; build your own theology; religious literacy; perspective; world peace; empathy; adults living the values we want our youth to learn; spiritual community; connectedness; developmentally appropriate curricula; no “seat work;” balance between intellect and development of self and community; Other questions to be asked: What role does/could USSB play in our community in what it offers in Children’s RE? It could be fostering ability of children and adults to develop their beliefs and values rather than learning them; facing issues in community such as prejudice. USSB CRE must meet the needs of the family as a whole. What questions will we ask the congregation at the forum and in the survey? How much of a priority does the Society place on RE? What are we, the congregation, willing to support financially and participate in as volunteers?

#### **B. Finance Report** – Keith Strohmaier

Keith reported on reserve proposal. Finance Committee will invite input from the congregation. Communication through Kaleidoscope, e.g., will inform interested congregants that there will be a full and open discussion. This is an opportunity to vision for the future.

The Board agreed to hold a budget priorities meeting with the congregation similar to the one held last year.

*Note:* next Finance meeting will be February 22 at 6pm.

#### **1. Approve Audit Committee Board Charter**

*postponed due to lack of time*

**2. Internally Reviewed 2014-15 Financials** *postponed due to lack of time*

**3. December Financial Dashboard** - Rev. Julia noted that USSB is doing well with spending. However, pledges are short of budget and health insurance costs are up. At the February board meeting staff will offer a proposal to make adjustments to the budget.

**C. Lead Minister Interpretations** – Rev. Julia

**1. Interpretation 2.8** Compensation and Benefits- The Board approved this interpretation. Correct numbering will be made by Erin in the policy and the term “called” will be replaced with the term “ordained.”

**2. Interpretation 1.4.6** “Develop intellectual and spiritual personal practices that actively engage us with paradox and mystery” *-postponed due to lack of time*

**D. Letter from Robert Burke** - Member Robert Burke expressed concerns about the placement of a PFLAG meeting announcement in USSB materials. Robert’s objection was that PFLAG is not a sanctioned committee of USSB and therefore should not be “advertised in USSB materials. The Board found no policy violation. Melinda will respond to Robert.

**E. Moral Owners Updates** *no updates*

**1. Pacific Pride** – Eileen & Keith

**2. Warming Center** – Carol & Craig

**F. Discuss/Approve UUA Membership Number Certification** *postponed due to lack of time*

**G. Discuss/Approve Request for Freedom Warming Center Funds** – Freedom Warming Center nights of operations have been extended due to El Nino. A day center will be funded for cold or rainy days at Earl Warren Show Grounds, staffed by Warming Center staffers. The Board conditionally approved the establishment of a Warming Centers contract with Earl Warren Showgrounds for the day center, pending USSB staff review of and approval of the terms of the contract.

**H. Election of President-elect for 2016-2017** The Board unanimously elected Melinda Staveley USSB President for 2016-2017

**I. Review Revised Board Calendar** *no discussion*

VI. **Executive Report** *See B3 above*

VII. **Process Observations** Nominating Committee member Chuck Wolfe commented on the breadth and depth of the Board’s discussions. He noted that we ran short of time because of the important policy issues that emerged. He commended the Board’s good judgment in adjusting the agenda.

VIII. **Closing Reading** – Eileen Bunning read the words of Evan Boland.

IX. **Adjourned** 7:45PM

**NEXT MEETING:** February 23, 2016 5:45 PM Jefferson Hall