

Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

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

Board of Trustees Meeting

January 30, 2018 6:00-8:00pm - USSB, Jefferson Hall

Attendees: Keith Strohmaier, Board President; Susan Plummer, Vice President; Onolee Zwicke, Treasurer; Bonnie Lassen, Secretary; Eileen Bunning, Craig Bennett, Jack Rief, Cheryl Snell, Chris Shorb, Rev. Julia Hamilton, Rev. Caitlin Coillberg, Erin Wilson, Director of Administration

Absent: None

Process Checker: Tracy Freeman

Refreshments: Eileen Bunning

- I) **Opening Reading** – Susan Plummer read The Irony of American History by Reinhold Niebuhr
- II) **Check In** – Various attendees checked in.
- III) **Open Forum** - none
- IV) **Minutes** – November 14, 2017 Chris moved, and Craig seconded that we accept the minutes with spelling corrections. Passed.
- V) **Additions/Deletions to Agenda:** move executive session after adjournment, add Finance report, and add 2016-2017 Annual Report.
- VI) **Executive Report** - Rev. Julia highlighted a few items in her report:
 - A) Thank You: Thank you cards for this month: Tammy Shorb (Stewardship Circle Leader), Ben Senauer, Anne Taves, John Warnock, Eileen Bunning (ARE leaders).
 - B) Report on Northman Property – Erin reported the Society was bequeathed the property, a vacant lot in Santa Maria, along with other organizations. Shareholders held meeting last month about selling the property. Our proceeds could range between \$115,000 and \$150,000. The cost of the property development is \$9,300 for track map so the property can be sold to a developer for housing. The sale of the property will prompt the question: what to do with the proceeds, something to start discussing although the sale could be a year away.
 - C) Emergency Response – Thomas Fire and Mudslide - A new partnership was created between USSB and the Red Cross. They know better what our capabilities are.
 - D) Feb 4 Financial Update to Congregation and Feb. 11 CRE review by Sara Sautter for leadership.
 - E) Laura Barnett could be co-ordained by USSB and Live Oak congregations. Our congregation needs to vote on the ordination. The election can take place between services on a Sunday before June 2. We can also use proxy votes to meet the quorum requirements. Julia offered to transfer unused funds from her ordination to Laura's ordination.
 - F) Julia is vetting a two-year (September - June) part-time (20 hours a week) intern candidate to see if he would be a good match for our congregation. He does not require housing. The annual financial impact would be about \$10,000. Julia welcomes the opportunity to mentor. She will have more information at the next Board meeting.
 - G) Annual Report 2016 -2017 - The report is currently on Julia's desk. It needs a few more edits and she will have it ready for the next Board meeting.
- VII) **Policy Governance**
 - A) Board Discussion Topics
 - 1) Board Discussion Topic – White Supremacy - Keith presented prompts for further conversation. We need more time to further discuss the examination of our own implied bias, so we can be clear on what we want to bring to the congregation.
 - 2) Next Discussion Topic – Linkage in February

- 3) Onolee moved and Eileen seconded to appoint Charles Hamilton to the Endowment Board. Passed.
- B) Board Monitoring
- 1) 2.4 – November, December Financial Dashboard - Erin reported we are close to our pledge goal.
 - 2) 2.4 - Budget Planning Task Force - First meeting will be on February 13.
 - 3) 2.5 – Audit Financials & Review - Craig moved and Onolee seconded we accepted the report. Passed.
 - 4) 2.8 – Ministerial Housing & Salary Allocation Review – Forms, which cannot be submitted before the first of the year have been sent.
 - 5) 2.4 – Q2 Budget Review - no questions
 - 6) 2.5 – Tax Filings - Erin has filed appropriate forms and paid appropriate taxes.
 - 7) 2.9 – Monitoring Schedule Review - Julia recommends we move monitoring items from July to August so there is no monitoring in July.
- C) Finance report - Onolee reviewed a one sheet report of fixed assets and property.

VIII) Process Checker Observations - Tracy thanked us for our commitment. She commented that our energy level was low at the beginning of the meeting with the nuts and bolts of the work. She observed our energy level increased with the challenging work discussing White Supremacy.

IX) Closing Reading – Eileen Bunning - Reading “The Little Duck” by Donald Babock.

X) Adjourn 8:10 p.m.

XI) Executive Session

NEXT MEETING: February 27, 2018 6:00-8:00pm in Jefferson Hall

February Exec. Team Meeting – February 14, 6:00-7:00pm

Reminder: February Snacks – Susan Plummer

February Opening Reading – Bonnie Lassen

February Closing Reading – Cheryl Snell