

Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

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

Minutes of the Meeting Of the Board of Trustees

November 17, 2015 5:45 PM – 7:30 PM

Attendees: Melinda Staveley, Board President; Susan Plummer, Vice President; Keith Strohmaier, Treasurer; Carol Schwyzer, Secretary; Charlene Little, Bonnie Lassen, Rev. Julia Hamilton, Lead Minister

Absent: Eileen Bunning, Craig Bennett, Ted Myers, Erin Wilson, Director of Administration

No Process Checker

Time Keeper & Parliamentarian: Charlene Little

- I. **Opening Reading** – Bonnie Lassen read the words of Lao-Tze.
- II. **Check-In**-Those present shared briefly.
- III. There were no comments for **Open Forum**.
- IV. The **Minutes** of the October 27, 2015 board meeting were approved.

V. Policy Governance

A. Finance Report – Keith Strohmaier

Keith reported that the dashboard will be adjusted regarding income for the total year projected. The suggestion was made that this figure be dated.

January is the target meeting for the finance committee to bring to the board the matter of creating a reserve for maintenance and repair emergencies and one-time expenses. The board will see a report on how USSB manages its finances, a recommendation that we create a reserve, and a recommended plan to fund and maintain the reserve. Past and present Endowment board members, Planned Giving volunteers, Stewardship volunteers and others concerned will be consulted.

B. Lead Minister Interpretations – Rev Julia Hamilton

1. The interpretation of End 1.4.3 “engage in life long learning, utilizing reason. . .” was approved. The Board also approved a motion to replace the words “Long Range Plan” with the words “Multi-Year Plan” in our policies.
2. The interpretation of Policy 2.5 Financial Condition/Activities was approved. Question for the Finance Committee: What procedures can we put in place to monitor the various items under policy 2.5?

3. End 1.4.4 "Care for the Earth" was approved with changes in wording. See attached revised interpretation for End 1.4.4.

C. Appreciations, Concerns & Suggestions Table

1. The Board confirmed the concept as presented at October Board meeting. Submitted forms will be reviewed weekly by Julia, Caitlin and Erin. The Executive Committee will review the forms as well as COSM. The author of a form will receive an acknowledgement.

2. Next Steps for implementation: We will combine tables or put the Board is In Table next to the COSM table.

D. Board Coffee Chats: Many appointments are set up. Keep working on it!

E. Moral Owners Updates- The Board discussed whether the recipients of our services such as the guests at the warming center are our moral owners. Julia explained how we share with the guests an understanding of how our hospitality arises out of our mission. Eileen and Keith will be meeting with the new director of the Pacific Pride Foundation. Carol and Craig will meet with Erin Wilson representing the Freedom Warming Centers. Question to be discussed: What are our missions and how do they intersect?

- V. **Executive Report** – Julia Hamilton reported on a successful auction. Eden can now focus on communication and the website. Pledge income is projected to come in under budget. Expenses are being adjusted. Wedding income is being carefully watched and is coming up. The service for Lex is this Sunday and board members are asked to bring cookies. During the district assembly here this spring, we can educate the congregation about Chalice Lighters, a program to raise funds for particular needs in the district. Then in the future we can have congregational fund drives for Chalice Lighter projects. Individuals may always contribute.
- VI. **For our next meeting** Board members are asked to be prepared to discuss whether it would be useful for the Board to offer one or more facilitated forums for members, and if so what the topics would be.
- VII. **Process Observations-** There were no observations.
- VIII. **Closing Reading** – Melinda Staveley read words of Martin Luther King.
- IX. The meeting was **Adjourned** at 7:30.

NEXT MEETING: December 15, 2015 5:45 PM. This meeting is moved from the fourth to the third Tuesday because of the holidays.