

## Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara Board of Trustees Minutes

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

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### Board of Trustees Agenda

**Date:** August 28, 2018

**Time:** 6:00-8:00pm

**Location:** USSB, Jefferson Hall

**Attendees:** Keith Strohmaier, Board President; Chris Shorb, Vice President; Onolee Zwicke, Secretary; Jack Rief, Treasurer; Craig Bennett, Cheryl Snell, Mike Ristow, Kir Zecher, Mike Gorodezky, Rev. Julia Hamilton, Erin Wilson, Director of Administration

**Absent:**

**Guest:** Star King staff

**Process Checker:** Carol Schwyzer

**Refreshments:**

- I. **Call to Order** – The meeting called to order at 6:03pm  
Rev. Julia Hamilton gave the opening reading.
- II. **Check In/Ice Breaker** – People present introduced themselves.
- III. **Open Forum** – 6:12 pm. None
- IV. **Presentation from Starr King** 6:12 PM  
Presentation from Yolanda Medina-Garcia from Starr King Preschool, and Tiffany Rizzo-Weaver, co-chair of SK board. Celebrating 70 years of the preschool being on the USSB campus. Answered questions from the board about how SK approaches their work.
- IV. **Consent Agenda**  
**Approval:** 6:31 pm                      **Motion by:** Chris Shorb                      **Seconded by:** Craig Bennett
  1. Approval of Minutes – June 26, 2018\*
  2. Monitoring 2.4 – June and July Financial Dashboard & Report from FC\*
  3. Monitoring 2.4 - Q4 Budget Review\* (moved below)
  4. Monitoring 2.5 – End of Year Financial Review\*
  5. Monitoring 2.2 – Data Collection & Security\*
  6. Monitoring 2.7 – Record Retention Policy\*
  7. Monitoring 2.7 – Data & Archive Backup\*
- V. **Additions/Deletions to Agenda** – None
- VI. **Executive Report** **Time: 6:28pm**  
Rev. Julia discussed staff transitions over the summer, hiring of Maureen Claffey as Director of Congregational Life and Megan Moyer now Pastoral Care Coordinator supporting Care Team and congregation. Search for new RE Director will start this fall, search to take 6-8 months with a new DRE in place July 1.  
Rev. Julia acknowledged Worship Team and Erin Wilson for great work they are doing.  
Mike R. asked if USSB can register voters. Julia answered that we can't campaign for individual candidates, but we can do issues-based education, issues that align with our values  
Jack asked about covering 17-18 FWC budget shortfall. Erin explained budget shortfall and circumstances of last activation season (wet/cold, emergency activations during fire). Kathy Hayes, FWC Director, is working hard to secure support to fill the gap. FWC budget is not part of USSB's operating budget, but a restricted account.  
Thank you cards to Doug Thomas, Stewardship Circle Leader; Anna DiStefano, Facilitator; Laraine Gray, for helping hire the new Director of Congregational Life and stepping in with membership this summer.
- VII. **Policy Governance** 6:47pm
  - A. **Board Business and Discussion Topics**
    1. Treasurer's Report

Jack discussed Finance Committee's recommendation to the board in support of the Unrestricted Bequest Policy. Unanimous approval by Finance Committee.

**2. Unrestricted Bequest Designation Policy (25 min)-**

Discussed Aug 7<sup>th</sup> meeting with Board and interested parties. Requests were made to address the policy wording, set up guardrails, address USSB debt, and to plan for congregational communication strategy. Board also addressed; board responsibility to policy governance, policy wording, how to communicate/educate congregation, how bequests are made, address and pay down debt, board trust in itself to make good decisions. No vote was taken.

**3. Board Discussion Topic – Congregational Ends Survey (10 min)**

Keith provided to Craig today - will continue board discussion about it on Realm and we'll pick it up again next month

**4. Board Retreat (5 min)**

We have a room, Julia might have to go to Toronto - more important for full board to be there.

**5. Beloved Conversations (15 min)**

Julia sent out retreat summary, a collaborative project with other congregations on the Central Coast will be in San Luis in February - fantastic if board made this a priority to attend and commit to this conversation together - groups of 15 - we could have a board group and a group of congregational leaders. Subject is race, racism, oppression - how do we grapple with this question with ourselves, with the congregation, in the wider world. Is board ready to commit? If not, Julia will fill the roster with other people. Eight sessions here at USSB, after initial retreat training. Most of board says they are in.

**VIII. Items moved from Consent Agenda - (List items moved or none).**

**Monitoring 2.4 - Q4 Budget Review\***

Erin - staff overages due to wedding coverage, Thomas Fire, and unforeseen building repairs, repairs on rentals we own.

**IX. Process Checker Observations – Carol Schwyzer**

Carol Schwyzer - impressed with organization/ prep and progress on policies. Feels like USSB is more deeply organized than decades ago. Impressed with discussion of policy change, feels how fraught it is and am touched by how truthfully people spoke, and not afraid to disagree with each other. As a member I so trust this board to do the right thing, you are the board, don't be afraid to accept that trust.

**X. Closing Reading – not done**

**XI. Adjourned 8:15pm**

**NOTE:** In preparation for the meeting, please review the items marked with an \*

**Next Board Meeting:** September 25, 2018 6:00-8:00pm in Jefferson Hall

**Next Executive Team Meeting:** September 12, 2018 6:00-7:00pm in Blake Classroom A