

Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

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

Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2016 5:45 PM – 8:30 PM

Jefferson Hall, 1535 Santa Barbara Street, Santa Barbara, CA

Attendees: Melinda Staveley, Board President; Keith Strohmaier, Treasurer; Bonnie Lassen, Secretary; Craig Bennett, Eileen Bunning, Charlene Little, Cheryl Snell, Onolee Zwicke, Rev. Julia Hamilton, Rev. Caitlin Erin Wilson, Director of Administration

Absent: Susan Plummer, Vice President

Process Checker: Joya Sexton

Time Keeper & Parliamentarian: Charlene Little

- I. Opening Reading – Keith Strohmaier read a quote from Parker Palmer.
- II. Check-In
- II. Open Forum - none
- III. Minutes – November 15, 2016, approved as presented
- IV. Additions/Deletions to Agenda
 - Melinda's report
 1. Board members need to wear Board ribbons on their name tags so people will know who we are. Call Megan if you need a board ribbon.
 2. Melinda received a phone call from the Board Chair of All Souls Unitarian Church in New York City. They are transitioning into policy governance. Laura Park referred them to USSB as a congregation which is implementing policy governance-like approach to Board work. They spoke at length sharing concerns on issues the two congregations have in common.
 3. Melinda and Cheryl are attending the 3rd Annual UUA International Women's Conference at Asilomar February 16-19. She will drive and has room for 4 riders.
- IV. Executive Report - Rev. Julia
 1. Application to City, CDBG Funds for FWC was approved.
 2. Julia highlighted in her report Adult Education offerings, each of which will have their own schedule, balancing day and evening.
- IV. Policy Governance
 - A. Board Discussion Topics
 1. Revised Ends - The Board accepted the final version of the condensed, revised Ends, see attachment. A copy of these six Ends will be posted on the website and on a sheet visible in each meeting room along with USSB mission and values.
 2. Growth & Membership are December & January topics for the Board to engage in visionary conversation to inform our needs for leadership. Growth is not always measured in numbers. Julia made some dis-

inctions between the way large and small congregations operate. Julia took notes and will send them to us so we can continue thinking about this conversation to be resumed next month. She requested we email her any additional insights.

B. Draft Board Monitoring Calendar Review was approved. In January we will determine if anything is left out of pages 2 and 3 of the document.

C. Finance Report

1. December Financial Dashboard will be emailed to us.
2. Finance 101 Revisions
3. Dashboard & Finance 101 Presentation to the Congregation
4. 2016-17 Budget Revision:

Craig Bennett moved, Bonnie Lassen seconded; „Immediately suspend UUA and PSWD payments. Review the financial situation regarding fiscal 2016 -17 and 2017 - 18 in three months and create a long-term plan with the understanding that this is not a long-term solution and that we should not be using UUA and PSWD payments as a buffer.” Motion passed, with 1 opposed and, 1 abstained.

Our intent is to determine ability to pay these commitments by fiscal year end and finalize the understanding that use of our UUA and PSWD payments will not be used as a “buffer” in the 2017-2018 budget.

D. Internally Reviewed 2015-16 Financials and Recommendation of 2016-17 Financials Auditor was approved.

V. Process Observations noted the positive tone of the thorough discussion with all Board members’ points of view receiving full consideration and respect, despite the challenging topics.

VI. Closing Reading – Melinda Staveley read a quote from the Dalai Lama.

VII. Adjourned 8:30 PM

NEXT MEETING: January 24, 2016

Bonnie Lassen
December 16, 2016