

DRAFT MINUTES

Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

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

Board of Trustees meeting minutes

October 24, 2017 6:02 - USSB, Jefferson Hall

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

Guest: Rachel Aarons

- I. **Opening Reading** – Onolee Zwicke Reading on Leadership: Emerson, unknown, Margaret Mead
- II. **Check In** - Multiple people checked in
- III. **Open Forum** - None
- IV. **Minutes** –September 26, 2017
Craig moved, and Jack seconded to accept the minutes, passed.
- V. **Additions/Deletions to Agenda** - Board development day
- VI. **Executive Report**- Rev. Julia
Thank You: Melinda Staveley, Stuart Brandt, Cheryl Snell

Highlights: Julia has added to the report the attendance statistics from last year to compare with this year. The launch of CRE is solid. The pastoral care team has been busy. Julia is still spending lot of time with inter-faith community. We will be watching SB 54 and its implementation. Wednesday, Nov.1 Chris Crass will be speaking on our campus. We are starting our second year of Newcomers Series. This year the program will be modified: 1) there will be three distinct series instead of an on-going event, 2) the module that follows the Newcomers Series will be "Beyond Newcomers."

Board Development Day

Board members who attended reflected on the day. Some comments were:

- Discussion topics were developed from the questions posed.
- We need to develop the Board binder.
- We need to add the Congregational history / story to the Board binder. Eileen is willing to begin the project with an outline which she will present at the December Board meeting.
- We should work with other Unitarian groups in the area. We can be known for what we stand for and what we do.
- We are always wearing our Board Member hat.
- There was a valuable list of material to read.
- It was agreed the time was well spent.
- As a possibility, think about a Board retreat we can do on our own.

VII. Policy Governance

A. Board Discussion Topics

1. Board Discussion Topic – White Supremacy
There were multiple thoughtful commentaries and sharing.
2. Next Discussion Topic - We will continue with the same topic; White Supremacy.

B. Board Monitoring

1. 2.4 - September Financial Dashboard & Report from FC (See Finance Report)
Financial Management and the Church, is a book the Finance committee is reading. The committee learned people make contributions to be part of something bigger and want to see change. UU have higher income but give less. The view of a five-year plan and that vision can motivate people to give.
2. 2.4 - Q1 Budget Review (See Finance Report) - Erin and Cindy (bookkeeper) are more confident than last year that we are on course.

3. 2.4 – Budget Planning Timeline - Soon we will be six months into our budget year and it will be time to give the congregation information on our situation. Annual meeting is June 3, 2018, the Town Hall meeting on Budget will be on May 15. The Board will review the budget at the April Board meeting. Question: can we do a five-year budget? What is the next leap and how do we plan to get there? The Budget Planning committee is not a standing committee. It is created every year. The committee will begin meeting in February.
4. Board-requested report on net budget – 10 yr. history - no questions
5. Board-requested report on Sunday attendance – annual benchmarks - no questions
6. Board-requested report on CRE volunteer/teacher status - no questions

C. Finance Report

1. September Financial Dashboard & Report from FC
2. Q1 Budget Review

VIII. **Process Checker Observations** none

IX. **Closing Reading** – Chris Shorb reading by Barak Obama

X. **Adjourn** 8:00 PM

NEXT MEETING: November 14, 2017 6:00-7:00pm

Reminder: November Snacks – Chris Shorb

November Opening Reading – Craig Bennett

November Closing Reading – Onolee Zwicke

Bonnie Lassen
Secretary
Oct. 24, 2017