

Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

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

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting

May 24, 2016 5:45 PM – 7:45 PM

Attendees: Melinda Staveley, Board President; Susan Plummer, Vice President; Keith Strohmaier, Treasurer; Carol Schwyzer, Secretary, Craig Bennett, Eileen Bunning, Bonnie Lassen, Ted Tazer-Myers, Rev. Julia Hamilton, Lead Minister; Erin Wilson, Director of Administration

Expected Absence: Charlene Little

Process Checker: Joya Sexton, Nominating Committee

- I. **Opening Reading:** Eileen Bunning read two poems of Shel Silverstein
- II. **Check-In:** Rev. Julia returned Saturday night from a successful adult mission trip to the Hopi Mesas.
- III. **Open Forum:** There were no guests for open forum.
- IV. **Minutes:** The Board accepted as written the second draft of the minutes for the April 26, 2016 Board Meeting.
- V. **Executive Report:** Rev. Julia
 - A new team has been formed to determine the outreach offerings; obtaining input from the congregation.
 - The sanctuary has had some attention: the new sound system, meditative pew polishing, furniture refinishing, and funds have been donated to replace the old pew cushions. It is good to see the loving care we are bringing to the sanctuary.
 - There will be one service beginning the first Sunday in June. After Labor Day two services will resume.
 - The middle hour plan for Children's RE is being explained to people and is well-received.
 - There is a transition in child care staff; looking for someone to accept the child care position for the long term.
 - Congregants have made positive comments about the sound system as it has been adjusted. Rev. Julia and the Board thanked those involved with the budget planning, especially Treasurer Keith Strohmaier and Director of Administration Erin Wilson, and those who have worked and continue to work on the Annual Campaign.
 - Everyone is invited to the RE BBQ on Sunday, May 29; bring something to share.

- A question was raised about YRUU attendance. This is a new item on the dashboard; staff is getting up to speed on collecting the numbers. YRUU is active; 19 youth and 4 adults are going on the YRUU trip to New Orleans.

VI. Policy Governance

A. Finance Report: Keith Strohmaier

discussed
the pledge income and projected budget shortfall for the year as it affects program planning for 2016-2017.

cards,
Congregation.
including how to communicate the questions and answers to the
* About 60-70 attended.

* Choir members left a few minutes early to sing in the 11:00 AM service.

* About 10-12 people stayed after the meeting.

at
the meeting.

* Some congregants would have liked to have more time to ask questions
* The Board decided that Rev. Julia and Erin will consolidate the questions and post them, with answers, on the USSB website. In addition, each

person

who wrote a question on a card will receive a personal email response to the question.

* The written questions relating to personnel matters were addressed in Executive Session with Board members, Rev. Julia and Erin present only.

Anyone wanting to discuss personnel matters will be referred to Julia.

* The Board approved the draft budget.

B. Lead Minister Interpretations : No interpretations presented

C. Moral Owners Updates

1. **Pacific Pride** – Eileen & Keith: Meeting scheduled for June 3.

Erin
2. **Warming Center** – Carol & Craig reported on a productive meeting with Wilson representing the Freedom Warming Centers. Rev. Julia pointed out that the Warming Centers and Pacific Pride, as USSB designated Moral Owners, have priority for our outreach offerings.

D. Review of Annual Meeting Agenda:

nant.
* All Board members present will attend & read the Ends, Values, and Covenant.
* Craig, Bonnie, Carol and Eileen volunteered to count ballots

* Eileen will sit at the table for passing out ballots.

* Quorum will be determined by the total number of ballots that have been picked up.

* Quorum for adding to the agenda requires a head count.

* Gary Welterlen will serve as the Parliamentarian and Quorum Reporter.

VII. **Process Observations:** Joya Sexton, Nominating Committee, commented that it was once again very impressive to see how the Board worked together. She observed that the Board Members were well-prepared and engaged; the tone was positive; and the meeting well-timed.

VIII. **Closing Reading:** Eileen Bunning read two more poems from Shel Silverstein.

IX. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM.

NEXT MEETING: June 28, 2016