

# Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara Board of Trustees Minutes

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

## Board of Trustees Agenda

**Date:** 10-23-18    **Time:** 6:00-8:00 p.m.    **Location:** USSB, Jefferson Hall

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

**Absent:** Craig Bennett,

**Guests:** Joanie Jones, Lora Young, Tres Riordan, Gary Welterlen

**Process Checker:** n/a    **Refreshments:**    **Minutes:** Eden Kennedy

I.    **Called to Order** by Keith Strohmaier at 6:01 p.m.  
Mike Ristow gave the opening reading from “The Creation,” by E.O. Wilson

II.    **Check In/Icebreaker** – (list guests in attendance)  
Guests: Joanie Jones, Tres Riordan, (CRE team); Gary Welterlen  
Check-in: Keith, Kir, Onolee, Ristow, Chris, Jack, Joanie

III.    **Open Forum** – (briefly describe any comments and from whom)

CRE group presentation included representatives Tres Riordan, Onolee Zwicke, and Joanie Jones. On behalf of Sara Sautter (interim DRE), Rev. Julia, gave an overview of the DRE search process, the types of positions being considered, and the need to create a job description with CRE team. Tres and Joanie expressed the importance of this position for youth and adults and request the buy-in of the Board and congregation so everyone can be invested in person hired. Two types of positions being considered, Director of Family Ministry vs. Director of Life Span. Julia indicated it is a challenging and competitive time to be hiring as there are many available positions in churches.

Gary Welterlen, chair of Planned Giving Committee, gave presentation on behalf of he, Mike Noling, and Bill Benjamin. Thanked board for recent policy vote – now moving organizationally from policy to practice - need closure on action items before communicating to Chalice Circle members. Requested that the prior policy of unrestricted bequests going to Endowment be grandfathered based on the execution date of those bequests. As part of a grandfathering clause, it was requested that the Northman property bequest date be used so that upon sale of property, proceeds would go to Endowment.

IV.    **Consent Agenda**

**Approval** (date/time) 6:43 pm    Motion by: Chris Shorb    Seconded: Mike Ristow

Motion Passed:

1. Approval of Minutes – September 25, 2018\*
2. 2.4 – September Financial Dashboard\*
3. 2.4 - Q1 Budget Review\*
4. 2.4 – Budget Planning Timeline\*

V.    **Additions/Deletions to Agenda** –

VI.    **Executive Report\***

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Rev. Julia gave recommendation to Lora Young as an Affiliated Community Minister. Discussion was held about ministerial formation team assisting during Julia's sabbatical, being a delegate at General Assembly, filling in the pulpit in emergencies or as a visiting minister. No cost is involved to USSB for this affiliated position. A motion was made and seconded to formally affiliate Lora with USSB. All members voted in favor.

Julia requests that Board members complete the Doodle poll for Beloved program meeting times during spring session.

Julia expressed excitement about meditation program for the congregation- Memorial for Lora Six, is this Friday at 4 pm.

Julia updated that due to personal circumstances, Colin Donovan is unable to continue on as Youth Coordinator. Janey Mandani will be providing support for this program in the meantime.

Generosity Sunday is this Sunday at 7 pm in Parish Hall.

Julia noted that with the news of Aaron's McEmry's removal from the ministerial fellowship, there has been an uptick in pastoral care going on. Julia sees an increased confidence in congregation's ability to respond with spiritual maturity.

Julia mentioned an initiative to rename Women's Chorale - releasing the gender aspect to recognize the mission of the group isn't tied to gender identity, and that this conversation is just beginning,

## VII. Policy Governance

### A. Board Business and Discussion Topics

**(Give summary of report, group discussion, decisions or actions taken, not individual comments)**

1. Treasurer's Report - Discussion (5 min) 7:03 pm  
Jack summarized finance committee discussion: Erin will provide monthly report to Finance Committee on portions of the operating budget (income & expense) each month. Finance Committee is reviewing and discussing its' charter and will return to the Board with recommendations for revision. Finance Committee is also brainstorming ways in which to convene all financial committees of USSB to do some finance visioning work/long-range fiscal planning.
2. Grandfathering Unrestricted Bequests – Discussion/Motion (10 min)\* 7:09 pm  
Board discussed pros and cons of grandfathering unrestricted bequests. Board decided not to pass motion on grandfathering. Board concluded that communication of donor intent can be done without restricting gifts. Board delegated staff to reach out to all Chalice Circle Members to seek intention on unrestricted gifts. Staff will communicate with Planned Giving at its' Nov. 1 meeting.
3. Northman Property Sale (15 min) 7:39 pm
  - a. Applying Policy to Sale Proceeds – Discussion/Motion\*All were in favor of applying new unrestricted gifts policy to sale proceeds

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## b. Congregational Vote Planning – Discussion\*

Per bylaw 17.3.2 'Real Property', a congregational vote is required for sale of the Northman Property. It was clarified that should members vote in the negative, USSB forfeits its' rights to the proceeds from sale of the property. Board discussed whether to ask the congregation to vote for either:

- a) To delegate to the board the authority to sell this property
- b) To approve sale of the property

With exception to Keith, the Board voted to have the congregation vote to approve the sale of the property.

4. Lora Young Affiliation – Discussion/Motion (5 min)  
(see above)

5. Congregational Ends Survey – Discussion (15 min)\* 8:03 pm  
Jack volunteers to take this on, get ready for annual meeting in June

## VIII. **Items moved from Consent Agenda** - 8:05 pm

Erin summarized the Q1 Report. Keith requested motioned to accept the report, Mike Gorodezky moved. All were in favor.

## IX. **Process Checker Observations** - n/a - 8:11 p.m.

## X. **Closing Reading** – Kir Zecher, Pablo Neruda, "To the Foot from its Child"

## XI. **Adjourned** at 8:13 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** (Date, location)