

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

October 16, 2016

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

PRESENT: Rev. Roberta Finkelstein, Donna González, Bill Hardham, Marilyn Hyte, Jacqueline Kairis, Phil Krape, Becky Laster, Linda Sanders, Steve Cohen, Anna Hamilton

ABSENT: Jenny Brown

Consent Agenda

- Sept 2016 Financials(Steve)
- Sept 2016 meeting minutes
- EL #1 (Roberta)
- ET Incidentals
- GP #2 (Phil)
- BETL #1 (Jacqueline)
- Final Safer Congregations Policy
- Final Weapons Policy—Include in Safety Policy

Consent agenda passed unanimously – Discussion on weapons policy – ET will implement and inform necessary parties in the church. No posting to avoid publicity, etc. No requirement to post a sign under Delaware laws. Roberta asked the question about how the Board communicates new policies that are passed. Marilyn reported that in the past 18 months, only one new policy was formally announced. Only announce when it is additive and it makes sense - at the discretion of the Board. But should be included in the Annual report. ET will report to the Board if any feedback is received from ushers, etc., about the new policy.

Investment Committee

- Proposals and Recommendations Discussion – Donna and Anna are on the Investment Committee. Steve is an ad hoc member. Formal document reviewing past year on GP 9 is pending—we know as a Board we are out of compliance. Proposals for changes to GP9 will be provided in 1-2 months. Draft investment policies were reviewed for upgrading Heritage Fund and Capital Campaign Fund. No formal votes were required—draft documents are still in process as Anna requested input and discussion from the Board.
 - Define roles and responsibilities. Anna is the head of the Investment committee. Donna and Steve were recruited. Barry Marrs was invited, but is too busy right now.

- UU Common Endowment fund is well managed and is socially responsible investing. It's a diversified fund with 9 different managers and numerous types of investments.
- How can we make it easier for the church to manage these funds?
 - Need a strategic direction for Heritage Fund and Capital Campaign Fund
 - Capital campaign building fund. Right now it's about ½ in UUCEF/cash and ½ in Wellington Fund. Anna recommends putting that Wellington ½ in a money market fund to reduce risk during the election. Leave the UUCEF component alone.
 - Current policy governing is the October 2012 revised March 23, 2013, but policy is obsolete.
 - The Executive Team has not seen this recommendation and needs response time to review this policy and recommendation.
 - Steve & Bill pointed out that if the Investment committee makes the recommendation, the ET (with Marina, the Business Manager as the liaison with the Investment Committee) can review and make a decision.
 - Bill pointed out if we moved some of the current Wellington into cash we would come into compliance with the 40% in the policy.
 - If we read the current March 25, 2013 policy as it is, we understand the Investment Committee and the ET have the authority to make the decision to move the fund into compliance. We leave this specific action to their purview.
 - Heritage Fund.
 - Anna reported it is 100% in the UUCEF, which is where it should be in her opinion. The management of the fund is good.
 - Current policy is dated 2011. Suggested updates are included in the Board packet.
 - Comment was to keep the Authorized Decision Makers consistent between the policies.
 - Comment to note that all allocations are consistent with the UUCEF fund.
 - Comment to review the spending policy. We feel the need for a clarification of the running average and consider provisions to prevent taking too much money from the fund
 - Investment Committee will redraft the Heritage Fund wording and GP#9 and resubmit to the Board for review.

Policy Governance Committee

Discussion of GP's –

Bill introduced two documents – GP revised version with track changes on and the Change log summarizes the changes. Bill summarized the changes.

- Roberta suggested that we remove from her contract the requirement for her to appoint a committee on ministry (we determined it is not necessary)We will do this in the next performance review session, by adding an addendum to her contract.
- All changes were accepted unanimously.

The next steps for the committee are to work on the more controversial EL's. We will review the suggested changes for discussion with the Board at the November meeting. If we get general consensus in November, then we will discuss with the ET. If we get general agreement or understanding, then we will submit in December or January for Board approval.

First UU Resolutions

- Process Discussion
- Higher Ground Moral Declaration

Rev. Barber is the author of the document. He spoke at General Assembly. In September, an interfaith delegation submitted the Declaration to the Governor in Dover. At the potluck on Oct. 14, we had members at the potluck sign the document and send out to over 100 political candidates. Thank you for approving this over email so we could go forward with the activity at the potluck. Going forward, resolutions will be approved in advance to the extent possible.

Administrative

- Thank-you –sign cards
- NAACP Award – get tickets tonight
- Board Sign Covenant – sent around to sign
- Heritage Fund – Foss's are leading the effort. Roberta has asked to re-launch in Jan/Feb time.
- December 19 Board –Options-think about it for next meeting.