

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF WILMINGTON, DELAWARE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MEETING: Board of Trustees Meeting, November 16, 2015. **TIME:** 7:04 p.m. – 8:40 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ostin Warren, Marilyn Hyte, Donna González, Becky Laster, Leslie Dickerson, Anna Hamilton, Doyle Dobbins, Linda Sanders. **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jacqueline Kairis

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Roberta Finkelstein, Barry Marrs.

Recording Secretary: Doyle | Process Observer: Leslie | Centering and Chalice Lighting: Leslie

Note: To better ensure follow-through with action items from Board meetings, areas for specific follow-up are highlighted in red font throughout this and subsequent meeting minutes and Board decisions are highlighted in green font.

Agenda Review: Ostin reviewed the agenda to begin the meeting. Each person present was invited to comment on what they are missing by coming to the board meeting—interesting variety.

Opening Words: Leslie provided the opening words and expressed thanks for personal support over recent months.

GOVERNANCE / LINKAGE-ENGAGEMENT

Stewardship Matters – Barry Marrs reporting:

Stewardship planning: Barry took over the leadership of the Stewardship team from Bill Hardam, who provided many years of excellent leadership. Barry is continuing where Bill left off, reporting that the stewardship theme for this year is “The Journey,” but noted that what that means is still evolving. Materials are being developed, visitations are being planned, and training sessions are scheduled for 1/21 & 23/16. The public kick-off/celebration will take place on 2/21/16. The Board is expected to be more involved than in the past. **The consensus opinion was that a “thank you” video on the web site following pledging is a good idea.**

The investment committee: This is a board committee, which means that it reports to the board and makes recommendations periodically to the board with regard to investment funds—two reports were electronically submitted to board members prior to the meeting. The Board’s decisions made in March 2015, were not communicated adequately; consequently, implementation of the decisions did not happen, mostly due to the multiple transitions taking place last year. Anna raised question about the committee’s plans and recommendations and whether or not the Board’s decisions from March should be implemented, especially with regard to issues surrounding socially responsible investing and the ups and downs of the Market. Marilyn had questions about the re-balancing of funds. Barry expressed the committee’s points of view. Following much discussion, **Donna moved that we put a hold on implementing the Board’s March decisions, enabling the committee to update its review and provide the Board with additional information prior to its January meeting; seconded by Doyle; motion**

passed. It was noted that the Investment Committee, according to policy, needs two additional members—**Ostin will work with Barry to find two new members.**

UUCEF documents: Ostin provided to all board members copies of the UUCEF documents. The UUCEF Subscription Agreement needs Board approval—**Linda moved that the changes be approved and the Subscription renewal completed; seconded by Leslie; motion passed. The Executive Team will ensure the Agreement is completed and sent in.**

November Thank Yous:

Martha Geisler, Lisa Jacobs, and Tracy Spinka-Doms were recommended for recognition via thank you cards, which Ostin offered to complete.

CONSENT AGENDA

All reports and documents were made available with sufficient time for members to seek clarification or suggest minor corrections with the author of each, according to our Consent Agenda plan.

September Treasurer’s Report – Steve
November Incidental Report – Roberta
GP #3 Report – Marilyn
October Meeting Minutes – Doyle

Linda moved that we approve the consent agenda; Becky seconded; motion passed.

MONITORING / GOVERNANCE

Annual Meeting Minutes – Ostin:

The Minutes were completed, but not approved, as we do not have a process for distributing the Minutes or approving them until the next Annual Meeting. Consequently, decisions made at the Annual Meeting are not adequately communicated and follow up is not well managed. Multiple members promoted the use of E-blast to communicate the Minutes immediately after a congregational meeting—**Marilyn moved that we do so; multiple seconds; motion passed.**

In the works:

Redefining GP Policies – Becky, Ostin, and Governance Committee: **recommended changes will be proposed at a later date.**

E-voting/proxy voting bylaws legal review – Ostin: **pro bono legal assistance is being sought.**

Process for GA/JPD/CERG delegates – Marilyn: no update as Paul Pinson has not been available.

Public Policy Statements: Doyle and Linda reported that some progress has been made. The GA Black Lives Matter Resolution has been revised to give it a local focus—a draft will be sent to all members; more discussion will be needed before decisions can be made regarding its approval and use. A team is needed to manage the public policy statements process. Rather than create a new team, Linda and Doyle recommended that this management be assigned to the current UUSC team, in part because of its broad involvement in social justice issues related to civil rights and racial justice, economic justice, environmental justice, and humanitarian crises. **Linda moved that we ask the team, currently known as the UUSC team, to monitor and manage the process of bring social justice public resolutions to the board for consideration and approval; motion seconded and passed. Roberta**

suggested that the team consider changing its name to reflect this added assignment; Doyle will work with the team in this regard.

Policy changes: Questions were raised about the need for making changes to some policies to keep policies current. However, the various agendas are full. **Roberta would prefer that ELs, Mission, and Ends became a priority in her second year--board members completely agreed.**

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

Holiday party – Ostin/Marilyn: The ET has been invited. Date and time: Sunday, 12/13, at 6 p.m., at Marilyn's house. **Ostin and Marilyn will work on the details, including a food list.**

Roberta: Dawn has resigned as she has been offered a permanent, full time job. She will provide temporary help, assisting Marina, who will work full time until a replacement can be found. If necessary, a temp will be hired to help during the transition.

Board Rehearsal on Funding – Ostin: Rehearsing potential problems is a good idea. Growth most likely will require better collaboration, communication, and stewardship planning, while maintaining a clear distinction between ministry and governance. Board & ET collaboration and collegiality is important, especially with regard to stewardship and fund raising, and, related policies may need clarifying and eventually amended.

Internal audit – Ostin: Ostin reported that the internal audit process has drifted. **He and Paul Pinson are recruiting new members to assist with regularly accomplishing this task.**

CLOSING: Process Review – Leslie was complimentary regarding our process. She offered closing words, and the Meeting was adjourned at 8: 40 p.m.