

The Unitarian Church in Westport is a diverse and welcoming religious community, free of creed and dogma, and open to people of all backgrounds and beliefs.

WE INSPIRE and support individual spiritual growth.

WE CONNECT through worship, music, learning, and caring ministries.

WE ACT in the service of peace and justice.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

January 19, 2015

Trustees present: Steve Axthelm, Chuck Colletti, Tom Croarkin, Denny Davidoff, Roberta Finkelstein (ex officio), Michelle Garvey, Lyn Hamilton, Anne Khanna, Matthew Peterson, Ted Yang

Trustees absent: Bobbie Herman

Observers : Shari Brennan (NLDC), Eric Gribin and Betsy Wacker and Ralph Tartaglione (B&G)

Garvey called the meeting to order at 7:32. Axthelm offered a centering reading.

Finkelstein led a discussion regarding what a Communications Committee might look like (not an extension of the BOT!) but peopled with staff and staff/volunteers doing implementation work rather than policy work. She will have a rough charter readied for the April meeting.

Passage of the Consent Agenda was moved by Davidoff, second Cross, and passed.

Khanna's December dashboard report indicated continuing strong pledge income. Khanna also explained the ongoing negotiation with the Y's Men for their continued use of our sanctuary. Peterson moved, Croarkin second acceptance of the Treasurer's report. Passed.

Discussion regarding preparation of a Five Year Plan highlighted as crucial planning areas: fiscal considerations, building & grounds, staffing and capital

improvements. Trustees imagined a task force with representatives from each area plus one board member. It was decided to defer such a taskforce until a new minister is in place. However, the Building & Grounds Committee will continue to prepare a capital plan which the Endowment Committee has specifically requested and which Garvey and Colletti had previously verbally committed to.

A photo directory proposal offered by David Emberling and formally moved by Khanna, second Colletti, failed passage pending further research and subsequent discussion. All present agreed that the Emberling offer is a generous one and that the initial turndown has everything to do with the BOT needing to examine its vendor selection policy which mandates obtaining multiple bids rather than any negative opinion of the content of the proposal or David Emberling's professional standing. Finkelstein offered to make some calls to obtain additional bids and will forward those to the BOT for February discussion since she will be absent on her month long unpaid sabbatical.

Tartaglione and Wacker, on behalf of the Building & Grounds Committee, gave a detailed presentation of the possible benefits to pursuit of local or state or national official historical designation for our building. They were asked to bring additional information, especially regarding grants to churches, to the February meeting.

Khanna and Croarkin made a case for establishing a Development Committee with the goal of filling the presumed \$100,000 budget gap – mostly with fun and energy-producing events like the recent auction party. They also suggested that such a committee might attend to major donor relations and, perhaps, planned giving. Trustees expressed some reservations about the need for siting these responsibilities in another new committee of the board rather than encouraging a more entrepreneurial environment and encouraged the endorsers to be in conversation with the YRSC and Membership Committee. Croarkin and Khanna will offer a draft charter for further talk at the February meeting.

Changes to the TUCW bylaws were discussed and prioritized, including:

1. Changing the size of the BOT from 11 to 9

2. Clarifying the definition of membership per the report from the Size Clarity Task Force
3. Amending the language of NLDC staggered terms from 1 to 2 years
4. Changing the size of future Ministerial Search Committees from 9 to 7 members and eliminating the BOT chair and vice chair as members ex officio
5. Provision for appealing decisions of the Endowment Committee – (board is not as yet in agreement about this)

The bylaws changes and amendments will be presented to a Special Meeting of the congregation on Sunday, April 12. Those that pass will be put up for the required second vote at the May 3 meeting that is already scheduled with its primary agenda item the official call of a new senior minister.

Members of the board agreed to be a non-anxious presence and strong supporters of the necessarily silent process during this phase of the ministerial search process.

Cross did process observations and Yang offered closing words.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Taft Davidoff, Clerk

FEBRUARY 16 AGENDA:

1. Election of successor Clerk
2. Transition Team committee charters
3. Further discussion historic designations
4. Further discussion photo directory proposal
5. Further discussion on Development Committee proposal
6. Process for appealing decisions of the Endowment Committee