

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

November 17, 2015, 6:30 PM

Trustees Present: M Garvey, T Croarkin, MJ Cross, A Khanna, L Shannon, H Aibel, S Axthelm. J Turmelle, Rev. J Morehouse (ex officio)

Observers: D Adams (staff), D Garskoff (NLDC), J Mason (YRSC), M Bishop (COM), F Keeton (Fundraising), M Money (YRSC), W McEvoy

Meeting called to order 6:37. MJ Cross offered a centering. Attendees checked in. No observer comments.

Consent Agenda: J Turmelle requested the Finance and Membership Policies be moved to the discussion agenda. **S Axthelm & T Croarkin moved to accept the remaining items; passed unanimously**

- October Board minutes & 11/5 Exec. Comm. Minutes – approved
- Communication Policy – approved
- BOT Goals - approved
- Senior Minister report – J Morehouse
- B&G Committee report – C Colletti
- September Financial dashboard – A Khanna
- Town Hall Update – T Croarkin
- No new reports –Governance Committee, YRSC, Board Chair

Policy Discussion: J Turmelle noted the Membership Policy contradicts the Constitution requirement for Membership. The board agreed to correct the policy for the Dec. meeting.

He also requested changes to the Finance Policy. A Khanna requested the board approve the Finance Policy as it stands, so that we have it in place.

S Axthelm & T Croarkin moved to approve the Finance Policy as is and ask J Turmelle to come back to the board with comments in Dec.– passed 5 for, 2 abstain.

Comm. On Ministry: M Bishop reported the Committee on Ministry is preparing a recommendation concerning completing the Covenant of Right Relations. A draft of the recommendation will be sent to the BOT prior to the December meeting.

Fundraising Plans: F. Keeton presented an overview report of fundraising strategy. Now in data gathering stage; formulating the plan.

Constitution Task Force: MJ Cross presented a first draft of changes required in the Constitution to align it with policy governance. Board members are requested to review the Constitution and suggest where more changes are needed. The plan is to have a ratification vote at the June 2016 Annual Meeting.

Communications: T Croarkin will send thank you's. Next Soundings article will include results of the October Town Hall and the plan for improved headphones.

Stewardship Policy: L Shannon brought up a larger issue that is highlighted by the YRSC comments on the Stewardship Policy. The board has no metrics in place to monitor any committee. Lynda proposed tabling this policy until we have a deeper board discussion on what it means to write a policy and the follow-up needed.

J Morehouse suggested a group made up of L Shannon, M Money, A Khanna and himself formulate a new Stewardship Policy.

Member Count: MJ Cross reported that the member count in the 2015 Annual Report is too high. MJ will work with D Adams and D Vita to correct the count. MJ also presented a proposal from J Morehouse to have the staff do future reconciliations at least three times yearly and report results to the board. The board agreed to this proposal.

Old Business: S Axthelm updated the board on a plan for a hearing enabling system to work throughout the campus. Steve and D Adams will move forward to determine if/when we can implement the full system.

New Business: J Morehouse requested the following board resolution: Be it so resolved that the signatories to the Ministers Discretionary Fund at People's United Bank shall include Rev. Dr. Edward Thompson, Minister of Music and Rev. Dr. John T. Morehouse, Senior Minister only. Be it further resolved that Rev. Roberta Finkelstein, the former Interim Senior Minister signature shall be removed from this account since she is no longer in a position with the Church. **The resolution was moved by H Aibel & A Khanna - passed unanimously**

M Money requested board help to find a new YRSC chair.

Executive Session: MJ Cross, L Shannon moved to go into executive session. Passed unanimously. After discussions, T Croarkin, H Aibel moved to come out of executive session. Passed unanimously

Process Observation: H Aibel requests that information be sent out a week prior to meeting.

Trustees did checkout and assignments. A Khanna offered closing words.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55

Respectfully submitted,
Mary-Jane Cross, Board Clerk