

Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church Meeting of the Board of Trustees

March 6

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held in the Emerson Room on March 6 with the following Trustees in attendance: Mark Tomlinson, President; Liz Dell, Vice President, Mac McMahon, Treasurer; Donald Zeilman, Clerk; Matt Merriman-Preston; Jane Schwarz; Gail Ward, excused. Guests ex officio: Rev. David McFarland and Brian Byers.

I Gathering

Mr. Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm, and shared words for the chalice lighting. A quorum was present at the call to order.

1. Rev. McFarland and Mr. Byers shared information and thoughts about the recent death of Member, Linda Johnson. Further, they explained the logistics of the upcoming vigil and funeral service at the church. They, along with Member, Ellen Kerr, have been with the family in their time of need.

Rev. McFarland spoke about the value of a caring and compassionate presence, recognizing the value of beloved community.

2. Adjournment: The Board resolved to postpone the regular meeting until March 13, in deference to personal and corporate needs.

March 13

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was reconvened at Unitarian House on March 13 with the following Trustees in attendance: Mark Tomlinson, President; Liz Dell, Vice President, Mac McMahon, Treasurer; Donald Zeilman, Clerk; Jane Schwarz; Gail Ward; Matt Merriman-Preston, excused.

Ex officio: Rev. David McFarland (presently on Sabbatical). Guest: Ellen Kerr.

I Gathering

Mr. Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, Rev. McFarland shared words for the chalice lighting. A quorum was present at the call to order.

Rev. McFarland discussed how church leaders hold the space for the process of grief. He noted the powerful ministry provided by the congregation during the recent events. He hoped that the experience over the past weekend (vigil and funeral) was something from which we could learn. He urged us (leaders) to hold one another in care, as well.

Rev. McFarland and Ms. Kerr were excused.

II Administration

1. Minutes of the February 6 meeting were distributed electronically for review. Correction noted: “Jim Key,” not “Keys.”
2. Financial Report: Mr. McMahon, Report distributed electronically for review. Notes that the end-of-year investment income number that he flagged for review, was correct. Mr. Tomlinson notes that the budget should reflect a greater amount for Social Justice (see 5040 and 5041 lines in budget).
3. Minister’s Report: No report during sabbatical.
4. Report of the Clerk: Membership remains at 82.
5. Staff Reports: Mr. Tomlinson notes that he is expecting a report from Brian Byers, the Director of Religious Education on Mr. Byers attendance at the recent Liberal Religious Educators’ Association (LREDA) gathering.

Reports accepted by assent.

III Business

1. Pennsylvania UUPlan Covenant. Mr. Tomlinson reports that he has been in conversation with folks at UUPlan, and that they are equally committed to the issues and concerns of the western part of the Commonwealth. Further, UUPlan comments were distributed electronically for Board review.

Motion by Mr. McMahon to commit Allegheny to entering into covenant with UUPlan, accepting the yearly financial assessment applied to covenanting congregations. Ms. Dell, second.

Motion Carries

2. Annual Member Donation to Northside Common Ministries. Mr. Tomlinson suggests that Allegheny reinstate annual support of NCM, recognizing our position as a “charter” congregation, and our on-going relationship (Director of NCM is church member, food pantry support, and providing monthly shelter meals).

Motion by Ms. Dell to make a donation of \$500 to NCM. Mrs. Ward, second.

Motion Carries

3. Nominating Committee Report. Mrs. Ward reports that the Committee has three of the four candidates that they are seeking. The Committee is beginning another round of discussions to find a candidate to fill the last position. The Board thanks her and the Committee for their work.

4. By-Law Amendments. Mr. Zeilman presented some considerations and proposals for possible amendments to the By-laws. Discussion included considering levels of Membership as well as financial contribution requirements.

Resolved to move forward with the following: 1) Amendment will be simple and direct, 2) will require a financial contribution of record, 3) will drop requirement around attendance, 4) will state a minimum age for membership at 14 years, 5) will waive financial contribution requirement for those under 25 years of age.

5. Covenant Renewal Policy. Mr. Zeilman reports that he met with Jay Poliziani, Chair of the Committee on Ministry, to review their draft proposal for conflict management policy, and that he will present a revised draft at the next Board meeting.

6. Gilliford Trust. Mr. Tomlinson reports that he has been having conversations with members of the congregation, and that he has also planned a meeting with Rev. McFarland to discuss the trust.

7. Sabbatical. Mr. Tomlinson notes that we have begun discussions around Rev. McFarland's congregational re-entry process that follows the end of Sabbatical. Will likely host a Re-entry Workshop on the weekend of July 26 & 27. The workshop will include District staff, the Leadership Council, the Board, and folks from the various church ministries.

Rev. McFarland has also encouraged the Board to consider bonuses for staff (Landis-Eigsti and Byers) when the Sabbatical is concluded.

IV Adjournment

Mr. Tomlinson adjourned the meeting and the chalice was extinguished.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be April 3, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald G. Zeilman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Donald G. Zeilman, Clerk 2013-14