

Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church Meeting of the Board of Trustees

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held at Unitarian House with the following Trustees in attendance: Kate Tomlinson, President (remotely); Sarah-Wade Smith, Vice President; Donald Zeilman, Clerk; Donna Badger Kopnitsky; Matt Merriman-Preston; and Sonia Reed.

Excused: Laura Conkle,

Ex officio: Rev. David McFarland

I Gathering

Kate Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, and Rev. Dave shared words for the chalice lighting. A quorum was present at the call to order. Kate calls for additions or changes to the published agenda. None were offered.

II Administration

1. Minutes of the March 25, 2019 meeting were distributed electronically. Kate calls for additions or changes to the Minutes. No corrections were offered. The Minutes stand as written.
2. Financial Report: The financial report was not available for this meeting.
3. Minister's Report: Rev. McFarland did not prepare a formal report. Rev. Dave notes that he senses a general feeling of exhaustion within the congregation with regard to church work. He believes that people are reluctant to reach out and ask for help. To the Board, and to other church leaders, he would counsel that it is acceptable to ask for help.
4. Report of the Clerk: Zeilman reports that current membership stands at 64. Rev. Dave has received resignations from Mary Jo Sonntag and Braden Wimer.
5. Denominational Affairs: No report.

Reports accepted by assent.

III Old Business

1. **FY 20 Budget Development:** Kate reports. As noted in the process schedule reported at the last Board meeting, a summary of Board input/questions, along with a draft budget, were distributed at this meeting. Many of the questions posed in the summary are for the Treasurer.

The following were discussed:

- » Kate noted the significant increases and decreases in the draft budget. At this point, the projected deficit is over \$10K.
- » It is expected that Beaver County UU Community will cover their own expenses.
- » Kate distributed the summary & Draft 1 line items to leads (stakeholders), per the schedule. The deadline for them to return their comments is April 8–12.

- » Rev. Dave highlights his proposed Worship technology expense item (no. 13 in the Summary). He recommends that the congregation consider the direction that it would like to go with regard to technology, and how to cultivate a relationship with those “not in the room” for worship. Items to consider may be projection during worship and recording of worship. Kate notes that this item is not currently part of the strategic plan process, but that it may be an appropriate addition.
- » Can the congregation develop a funding plan for technology? There may be outside funds available, but it’s late in the budget process to pursue them for this year. Rev. Dave notes that this is a “new” budget item, and the outcome will depend on the will of the congregation to move in that direction. The recommendation for this budget is to make \$500 available for technology, and even if that number is taken to \$0, that the line item remain.

2. Committees, Ministries, and Administration: As stated in the March Minutes, Badger and Sonia are organizing a stakeholder meeting. Sonia distributed potential stakeholder questions to the Board for comment, along with proposed dates for the two-part discussion. The discussion will use “appreciative inquiry” techniques. The proposed outcome will be a brief report. At the conclusion of this step in the re-imagining process, Sonia will recommend next steps for the incoming Board.

Sonia will draft the letter to the stakeholders, and send a copy for the Board to review. The letter will be sent to everyone on the membership engagement list regardless of current involvement. The letter will not propose a schedule for additional meetings. That point will be discussed at the preliminary meeting.

Noted that the Committee on Ministry be added to the engagement list. Last known members are Bethany Meisberger, Greg Blackman, and Sarah Mocker.

3. Nominating Committee Update: Zeilman requests contact information for potential candidates. He will send list to Kate for the information. Board members are willing to help with the process.

4. Social Media Training De-brief: As briefly stated at the March meeting, Rev. Dave notes that Board members can support church awareness and growth through social media by involvement and participation.

The responsibility for sharing “Allegheny’s story” does not just reside with the minister and the media volunteers. He promotes having church leaders tell their story on the FaceBook page as well, perhaps semi-annually, that highlights our mission. This might be cross referenced on other social media platforms as well (Twitter, Instagram, etc.). Encourages not waiting to be asked to submit, but to take the initiative. Leaders can put up content as it develops (also Google and Yelp star reviews).

The second aspect of involvement in social media is active re-posting, commenting on, and “liking” content that is being uploaded. Extend and echo good reviews and positive content – be actively engaged. Rev. Dave notes that social media is part of the church’s current reality. The congregation, and its leadership, needs to grow in this area. There could be (will be) those who relate to (and support) the congregation only online. Kate notes that Rev. Dave’s uploads (spiritual content) get high engagement, also that the “opening” statistics for the revised online Allegheny Advocate are improving.

IV New Business

1. Next Meeting: Kate proposes moving the next Board meeting date to May 13 in advance of the Annual Meeting on May 19. The agenda for the Annual Meeting will be the primary topic for discussion, with the FY20 budget, strategic plan, and membership development as the major items. Some amount of time for appreciative inquiry will be programmed.

FY20 Budget Presentation: What is the Board’s message? What does the budget imply? How does it promote our mission?

V Adjournment

Sonia Reed moves to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carries.**

Kate Tomlinson adjourns the meeting and the chalice is extinguished.

Next meeting: May 13, 7:00pm at Unitarian House.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald G. Zeilman, Clerk 2018–19