

Unitarian Universalist Society Board of Trustees, MEETING HIGHLIGHTS – April 12, 2018

Board meeting minutes are made available on the website or can be requested from the UUS administrator.

Present: Jim Laughlin (President), Kelly O’Berry (Past-President), Jane DeWitt (Vice-President), Peg Voelker (Secretary), Chris Rode (Treasurer), Kris Barrash (Trustee), Sara Feldmann (Trustee), Michael Honey-Arcement (Trustee), Rev. Steven Protzman (Ex officio), Peggy Garrigues (DCL), and Jessica Zimmer-Saltzman (DLRE).

Absent: Steve Locher (Trustee)

Guests: Terri O’Berry, representing CCLAM; Members of the Freethinker Friendly Congregation Group (Mark Yuskis, Jeanette Carter, Caryl Lyons, Hilary Strayer)

President Laughlin called the Board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the UUS conference room. Rev. Steven Protzman provided opening words, followed by the lighting of the Chalice.

Consent Agenda: Documents are put in Dropbox for review by Board members prior to the meeting.

Consent Agenda items: April Board Agenda; April Executive Committee Minutes; March Board Minutes (Locher); Treasurer’s Report, Financial Statements & Settling in Costs; Monthly Staff Reports (DLRE, DCL, Administrator, and Minister). Other items: Freethinker Friendly Congregation Proposal; Revised Community Ministry Proposal; Revised Staff Relations Committee Policy; Land Ministry Policy; Bereavement Leave ver. 04.05.2018; Proposed Bylaw Changes; May Congregational Meeting Draft Agenda.

It was noted that the Executive Committee approved sending a youth to MidWest Leadership School.

Community Ministry Proposal Revised: Rev. Steven explained that a changes were made to Lois Cole’s Community Ministry agreement to make it more consistent with UUS governance policy regarding termination authority. Revisions also included adding the five members of Cole’s Committee on Ministry as signatories of the agreement.

First read of Revised Staff Relations Committee Policy and Land Ministry Policy: The Board agreed to request that the phrase "identified by SRC and" be added to item A. of the SRC Policy. If this is acceptable to SRC, the policy will receive second read in May. A Land Ministry Policy was also submitted for review. Following discussion, the Board agreed to request that it be revised to include language about their charge. Once resubmitted, the revised policy will receive its second read.

Second read of Bereavement Leave Policy: The Board agreed to request that the last sentence be revised to the following: "Requests beyond the limits of this policy may be made at the discretion of the supervisor." There was some opposition to limiting the policy to employees who work 750 hours or more annually. The Staff Relations Committee will be consulted and asked to submit the final policy wording for approval at the May meeting.

Proposed Bylaws Changes: DeWitt shared potential revisions to the bylaw that could be voted on at the May Congregational meeting. With the establishment of the Program Councils, it is no longer necessary for an Officer of the Board to convene a fall meeting of the committees of the Society. The bylaw change would remove that as a duty of the Vice-President. Updates to better reflect current staff positions are also being considered.

Lifetime Member Nominations: Laughlin identified Lifetime Member nominees agreed upon by the Executive Committee. The Board unanimously approved the nominations.

Designate delegates to General Assembly 2018: Garrigues shared that potentially 14 people from UUS will be attending General Assembly. The Board approved the following six individuals to serve as our UUS delegates: Russ Lenth, Jane DeWitt, Jim Laughlin, Diane Martin, Sally Hartman, and Colleen Higgins.

Process to be a UUA Freethinker Friendly Congregation: Yuskis, Carter, Lyons, and Strayer, members of the Freethinker Friendly Congregation Committee (FFCC), each briefly addressed the Board about their proposal. They requested Board approval for UUS to undertake a year-long process outlined in their proposal to become a designated Freethinker Friendly Congregation (FFC). The Freethinker Friendly Congregation designation signifies that the congregation provides a welcoming community for people with secular humanist, atheist, agnostic, and other non-theistic worldviews. Criteria to receive this designation include that the congregation discuss ways to be more inclusive and welcoming in language and rituals, provide times and spaces celebrating the humanist worldview, and reach out to the wider non-theist community. The UUS Secular Humanists will lead forums and other activities to achieve those criteria. The year-long process will conclude with a vote at the May, 2019, congregational meeting approving that UUS become a Freethinker Friendly Congregation and that it submits an application for the designation to the UU Humanist Association.

May Congregational Meeting Agenda: Voelker presented a draft agenda for the May 20, 2018 Congregational meeting. In addition to an election to fill positions on the Board, Leadership Development Committee, Endowment Committee, and the Committee on Congregational Life and Ministry (CCLAM), the meeting will include a vote on proposed bylaw revisions, a report from CCLAM, and Recognition of our delegates to General Assembly.

DeWitt reported as process observer and Rode provided closing words. The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m. The next Board meeting is Thursday, May 10, 2018, 6:30 p.m. in the UUS Conference Room.

Submitted by Peg Voelker, Secretary