

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Grand Traverse
Board of Trustees Meeting
January 20, 2015

Present: President, Marco Cabrera Vice-President, Jerry Beasley Treasurer, Kay Sturgeon
Secretary, Jan Zerbel Trustees: Richard Miller, Sally Mitchell, Becky Somsel

Guests: Stan Cain - Beacon editor, Nancy Doughty - Leadership Development Committee,
Mary VanValin - Outreach, Beryl Striewski - Art Committee, Emily Mitchell -
Moderator of Ministry, Joe Cook - Endowment Committee, Tom Darnton, Gloria Katz

Call to order: 10:00

Check-in

Chalice lighting, opening words - covenant

Minutes have been approved by e-vote

Additions/changes to agenda

Motion regarding endowment committee under New Business

Add public comment to agenda under officer reports

7th inning stretch before motion #1

5 minute discussion of Minister's report

Add Becky's report on copyright issue

Nancy Doughty under officer reports/committee reports

Mary VanValin under committee reports

Becky moved to approve amended agenda. Kay seconded. passed unanimously

Consent agenda:

staff report

finance committee reports

Becky move to accept, Sally seconded. Passed unanimously

Officer reports

Joe Cook - Endowment Committee

Explanation of how the Endowment Committee works. Should the Thyliss Williams unrestricted bequest be part of Endowment Fund? There would be restrictions. Money in E.F. is under control of Endowment Committee. The committee could offer advice for investing the bequest. Would need research on the bequest before deciding what would be appropriate.

Nancy Doughty - Leadership Development Committee

Committee's intention is to have some contested elections this year. New by-laws say 3 years service for trustees. Committee working on how to get staggered terms.

Discussion about which/how many Board members will be retiring at the end of this term. Will need to elect 4 new trustees for next term.

Committee also needs a date for annual meeting. By-laws state by the first Sun. in June for Annual Meeting. Board intends to meet that deadline.

Mary VanValin raised the issue of the Guatemala Fund which now exceeds need and suggested that consideration be given to best use of the excess. One person handling all the money for script cards needs to be rethought. Suggested that all checks be written to UUCGT and handled from the office.

Emily Mitchell - Moderator of Ministry Report

Extensive report expressed concern that this effort necessitates involvement of more people and partnership with the Board to "build capacity as an organization". Strong suggestion that all committees need consistent structure and defined roles. Expressed concern that we are not communicating with the public on-line.

Goal - Organizationally building capacity in our teams so that we can incorporate people at greater depth. Can we build a deeper bench together? How might that be done?

More information will be exchanged with the Board and work will be on-going.

Rabbi Chava requested input from Board members about her reports. Discussion. Members expressed satisfaction with reports and asked if priorities suggested at Chava's request were helpful.

Becky reported on copyright issue. Maura Brennan and Marcello Betti met with Becky and are interested in helping. Would like to see our insurance policy. Becky will request info from Leslie. Meeting in another week and a half and will hopefully come up with clarity. Jerry added background for guests about the Board's quest to solve the problems involved with making recordings of Sunday services available.

Business

Finance report - This year's endowment fund distribution

Motion 1 - The Finance Committee recommends that \$3,500 be transferred from the Thyliiss Williams Memorial Fund to an Art and Exhibition Restricted Fund for the Corridor Gallery project and/or any other Art and Exhibition Committee projects approved by the Board.

Motion 2 - Kay: I move that the Board approve the bids for the Corridor Gallery project for \$1,300 for track lighting and \$299.11 for painting to be taken from the Art and Exhibition Restricted Fund.

Motion 3 - Kay: In keeping with the Bylaws, I move that the Board accept the recommended distribution of the interest/dividends for 2014 from the Endowment Committee. The distribution is \$1,500 to be divided in 1/3 equal shares to Capital Improvement, Out Reach and UUA wider mission. (Please see Bylaws for full description).

Jerry moved that we approve all 3 motions simultaneously. Becky seconded. Kay amends motion #1 to remove last 4 words "approved by the board". Friendly amendment to Jerry's motion. He accepted the amendment. motion passed unanimously

Appoint Committee on Ministry - Chava

Purpose of the committee is "to support the spiritual health and well-being of the entire Congregation, as seen in member participation and accomplishment relative to the mission of the Congregation.....and to provide conflict management and resolution when necessary." So, 2

major roles: Support and Resolution. Chava was given responsibility to choose members to then be nominated by the Board. Policy manual specifies 5. Chava requests 7. Kay moves to appoint Joan Sheard, Jane Watts, Anne Hughes, Rick Walters to Committee on Ministry. Additional members to be appointed by the Bd when available. Modify policy for Committee on Ministry to read "at least 5 members". Jerry seconded. Discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Contingency Fund: How to deal with financial situations that need immediate attention. Jerry expressed a need for a fund for dealing with sudden, unexpected expense (limited amount). Marco suggested referring to Kay for finance and policy aspects. Kay has talked with Leslie. Operational side of the budget. Kay will take this to the finance committee.

Re-open discussion on process for minutes. Current process is still too burdensome. Discussion. For this month Jan will send draft to Jerry for tentative approval after which minutes will be published on website as unapproved. Approval by vote at next meeting. Top agenda item next month.

Extinguish chalice and closing words - Becky

Closing words for Feb. meeting - Chava

Next meeting Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2015 10:00 am - 12 pm

Adjournment - Jerry moved. Richard seconded. motion passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted
Jan Zerbel, sec'y