

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Restoration
Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, January 4, 2017

Present: Tim Styer, Moderator; Cynthia Bradley, Assistant Moderator; Fern Culhane, Secretary; Grace Sherer; Jesse Richardson; Anne Arfaa; Wayne Boyd; and co-ministers, Maria McCabe and Jo Green

Unable to Attend: Len Rieser, Interim Treasurer

board action
means that a vote was taken

7:10 PM Chalice Lighting and Reading: Maria shared a reading entitled "Privilege" from the book, Be The Change, by Stephen Shick. We then shared our gratitudes.

7:26 PM Approval of December Board Minutes: Cynthia B. made the motion to approve the minutes and Grace S. seconded the motion which was then approved.

board action

7:28 PM Comments on Reports: Our Ministers made reports which included info about RE and Sanctuary plans from Maria and the start of the Caring Committee from Jo. They shared their Ordination plans which are just at their beginning points. Maria will have her ordination on June 4th at First Church in Wilmington, DE. Our church is invited to co-celebrate with them for Maria's ordination. Jo also asked us what are the three top things she should work on in regards to church administration issues such as the caring committee and the emergency preparedness manual. She will be resubmitting her report to add more information and make a more complete report for this month.

7:48 PM: Maria and Jo's Ordinations: The ministers recused themselves while we discussed the opportunity to sponsor both events. Jo's ordination will be on April 23rd and Maria's will be on June 4. The budgets for both have to be developed. Tim is on the committee with the Cherry Hill church for Jo's ceremony. We will probably have to be involved with fund-raising perhaps through a crowd sourced process such as Faithify. We need to know what the financial ask will be. Maria is developing a planning committee which will be shared with

Wilmington. Tim pointed out that this will be a lot to do for two ministers, and asked how we feel about it. The UUA has a manual for how to do an Ordination. There is a lot of variation based on the desires and abilities of the churches and organizing churches. Annabelle Grote, Linda Hansell, and our moderator, Tim S. are on the committee with the Cherry Hill Church. We know that Annabelle Grote is on the committee for Maria so far. Fern C. moved that we participate in the planning and execution of the Ordination ceremony for Maria McCabe with the First Unitarian Church of Wilmington on June 4. Wayne B. seconded the motion and Grace S. volunteered to serve on the committee with Annabelle Grote. It was approved unanimously. We can make the announcement at the Town Hall Meeting later this month.

*****board action*****

Tim also shared the letter that was sent to Maria by the UUA. It was all so true and a pleasure to hear! We are so pleased and proud of Maria!

8:05 PM Review of the Audit: Tim reviewed the information for us. He pointed out that the integrity of our numbers and our bottom line are good. There are strong recommendations for back up and security of our records. There was sloppy paperwork such as errors in recording or assigning the category where the item should be placed. Len R. has already begun the work to clean up the processes and institute better back up methods. We are most appreciative of the work done by the audit committee and the efforts of our current and past treasurers.

8:18 PM Pledge Drive and Budget Discussion: The Finance Committee will be meeting soon, and Bridget McQuate and Dot Feeley will make a presentation of the Pledge Drive for the upcoming year. Tim S. will have a report for us at the February Board Meeting. Tim S., Mike Foy, and Len R. will develop a preliminary budget for our approval in February so that the pledge committee can use it for this planning and kick-off in March.

8:24 PM Email Policy from Jane Hain: For security and privacy reasons, there will be separate addresses for individuals in positions at the church with #####@uurestoration.us. There will be a password assigned for each email and it can not be shared. She highlighted security practices which we should all use. Tim will send a copy of the policy to each of us and then we should each reply to approve the policy.

8:28 PM Town Hall Meeting, Jan. 22: Are we going to bring the concept of becoming a Sanctuary church to the church membership? Tim S. asked if we have enough information. Maria McC. shared that there are different ways to understand and act as a church community within the concept of being a Sanctuary church. Logistically we can not provide physical sanctuary for someone trying to avoid deportation as we don't have bathroom facilities to provide 24 hour protection within the building. Marie McC. recommended that we work as a church to study and understand the breadth of the situation and explore what role we could play

for ourselves or together with other churches. *New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia* and *Juntos* are two organizations that are active in the city. She offered to make a presentation at the Town Hall meeting. She highlighted in her report information from churches that are already involved in levels of Sanctuary. We agree that we are not at the point of asking for a congregational meeting.

8:50 PM Minister Search for next year: Our ministers recused themselves again and we thanked them and wished them good night. Anne A. moved to convene a small search committee to locate an interim full time minister for the upcoming church year. Grace S. seconded the motion and we approved the action. Tim S. Will share a list of potential committee members via email and we must all respond quickly.

9:30 PM Motion to adjourn: We approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Fern Culhane, Secretary of the Board of Trustees

Next meeting: Feb. 1, 2017, 7:00 PM at the church.

Wrap-up from meeting by Fern and Tim:

Tim

share list of potential Interim Search Comm. with Board board approval
Send email policy document from Jane To all the Board, board approval
Mike, Len and Tim Preliminary budget for next Board meeting, Feb.
Tim will announce about the ordinations at the Town Hall
Tim will share Agenda for Town Hall meeting by Wednesday, Jan. 11
Check with Bruce re Jubilee workshop and scholarships...
Talk with Pat and Jo (separately) .

Maria town hall meeting prep

Fern will submit newsletter brief blurbs for Order of Service and newsletters next two weeks.

Agenda for Town Hall:

Announcement for the two Ordinations

Clarification of Pledge Drive plans...

Presentation about the Sanctuary movement and possibilities for our church, request for level of interest/commitment from members of the congregation

Appendix for Reports

Co-Minister's Report January 2017

December proved to be a hectic but lovely month with our congregation completing annual traditions and beginning new ones. The Holiday Bargain Shoppe went very well for three Sundays in a row. So many of our members contributed both items and volunteer hours to make this happen with Dot Feeley spearheading the event. The annual drive to collect gifts for PIHN families was another event that members stepped up and contributed many gifts to make the holidays much brighter for three families, with Steve Workman spending many hours collecting and distributing these gifts.

The Caring Committee met again with only two participants attending, but we have begun a system of recording the Joys and Concerns each Sunday and sending a note to those who expressed the reason for lighting a candle. We also began a list of drivers available for congregants who are unable to reach appointments or Sunday services for lack of transportation. We currently have two people registered to be on the list and have had someone already request a ride for an appointment. We hope to increase the number of volunteers accessible on this list so that more people will be available for those who need transportation. The journey of 1000 miles begins with a single step so the quote by Lao Tzu states and we have begun our first steps. I also met with two congregants who wanted to express some concerns and drove out to see them.

Our worship services this month were led by lay leaders and we had a multigenerational service that went very well. Christmas Eve Maria and I led the Lessons and Carols service with the Handbell Choir performing so elegantly and wonderfully. We had the unique opportunity to hold Worship Service on Christmas morning as it fell on a Sunday this year. It was more sparsely attended than usual, but everyone was there to attend communion in the service and learn about our Transylvanian history.

I attended the protest in Harrisburg on December 19th to voice opposition to the vote that the Electoral College was prepared to take. I attended with Rev. Larry Peers a colleague and it was inspiring, but unfortunately the vote did not go our way. I also attended a Neighborhood Network meeting with nearly 200 participants which I had worked at for the election and they intend to continue the movement and energy that was created during the campaign. It was inspiring to see so many involved and hopeful that this movement will continue in a positive manner.

At the Chapter meeting this week I bought a "Love Your Neighbor" sign that Mainline is selling (my donation to the church) that we can put in the front of the church. I will bring that next week.

And our Emergency Safety Manual committee met today and we will begin work on customizing a final draft for Restoration from other sources that we have looked at.

January will bring a new year and we are currently scheduling time to hold New Member Orientation. We do have some interest in attendees becoming members which is very exciting and I will keep you apprised of the development of these potential members.

I took one of my week's vacation between Christmas and New Year's after doing the Sunday Christmas service. I will be taking the week from January 16-22 to attend the MFC class in Chicago as one of my study weeks.

Let us enter this new year with hope and joy that will overcome much of the sadness we have experienced. The caring and support in this community is here for each and every one of us.

Blessings in the New Year to everyone!

Jo Green
Consulting Minister

Text of the Town Hall meeting announcement to place in the Order of Service and weekly email newsletter for January:

Should Restoration become a Sanctuary church?

We are holding a Town Hall meeting after our regular church service on Sunday, Jan. 22 to learn more about what it might mean to be a Sanctuary church. We will discuss various types of actions that we may choose to take as a congregation. Your thoughts, questions and concerns are important! Please plan to stay for this important discussion. In addition, we will hear about the exciting plans for two ordination ceremonies this Spring for our co-ministers Maria McCabe and Jo Green. Finally, we will also get to hear about the upcoming pledge drive that will kick off this March. Please plan to attend!