

USR Board of Trustees Meeting
Minutes
April 4, 2016

Attendance:

Peter Duran, Robb Willis, Suzanne Samuels, Helen Matusow-Ayres, Rob Markowitz, Laura Krag, Kevin Smith, Judd Seals, Elizabeth Ames and Rev. Anthony Johnson.

Process Observer: Robert Markowitz

Chalice lighting 7:02 pm

I. Housekeeping

- a. March minutes approved via email
- b. SRCT proposals approved
- c. Suggested tweak of the fellowship feast form to add a phrase about discarding open bottles.
 - i. Why do members of the Board police the event? Why should we take on this role
 - ii. SRCT should be doing it or someone else
 - iii. SRCT asked us to appoint someone to do this.
 - iv. Board has fiduciary responsibility which is why Suzanne watched the open bottles in the kitchen
 - v. If no one steps up to police the alcohol policy then we should not serve alcohol
 - vi. The discarding of the open bottles will help with the problem.
 - vii. The Board needs to decide what their role will be. Next year's Board will have to decide.
 - viii. Suggestion made to put it into the job description for the program volunteers
 - ix. Need to change the procedures but the policy is does not designate who has this role.
 - x. Why do we need alcohol at all besides what is at the tables? A lot that was served by the bartenders was not used. No beer was consumed at all.

Rob moved to accept the council and committee reports currently in the Dropbox. Helen seconded, motion passed.

- d. Need to schedule an April budget meeting. Will be scheduled after the meeting
 - i. Fold in the AV request into this year's budget
- e. Retreat will not be held this year, we are running out of time. There will be an end of year social instead.

- f. At Annual Meeting on June 5, recognize Endowment Grant recipients, Dolores Beebe donation and other donations.
- g. Congregational Meetings
 - i. April 24, Black Lives Matter
 - ii. Budget Meeting – May 15- Suzanne will insure that it gets announced
 - 1. Sexually safer congregation
 - 2. Should do child care for this meeting and the annual meeting
 - a. Suzanne will arrange child care for all three meetings
- h. April 15 key codes will change

II Ministers Report

Reverend Tony

A) Summary

- Moving along with interim process
- Transition team meeting. He will do more outreach on the small group meetings. The next one will be about theological diversity. This will include sharing about how diverse the UU denomination is.
- If people are not willing to volunteer for something maybe it can't be done
- Dialogue service with Johanna was a success
- Meeting with racial justice committee about BLM
- Meeting with SRCT
- Meeting with Reform church about a thriving multiracial social justice congregation
- Attending a conference in Boston about religious organizations' needs.

III Rev. Tony's Housing Allowance

Rev. Tony

A) Summary

- Not subject to income tax
- Request that the housing allowance be increased from \$2,000 to \$3,000 per month.

B) Action

Move that the Board designate \$3,000 per month of the total salary for Rev. Tony's housing allowance beginning with April. Robert Markowitz seconded. Motion passed.

IV Treasurers Report

Peter Duran

A) Summary

- Actuals show that we will have a surplus in CY16

- The Chairs want to rethink the service auction. Thinking about moving the date and some other changes. Requesting that we appoint Task Team to review.

B) Discussion

- If they are thinking about doing it next year, the Board needs to know by June so that we can appoint a Task Team right away

C) Action

- Task Team appointed: it includes Dawn Walter, LuAnn Markowitz, Peter Duran and Laura Krag.

V Program Council and BLM Banner
Rob Willis

A) Summary

- Eblast on BLM banner vote
- 4/17 Service on why is your school different from mine
- Request for the Board to formally endorse the BLM banner

B) Discussion

- How long will the banner stay up?
(a) It will be reviewed in April 2017.
(i) Is that too long?
- Should there be a review date at all?
- One year review a good compromise
- Should it be an open vote or a confidential one
(a) Should be the same as all other votes.

C) Action

Rob moved that we endorse the SRCT proposal to hang the BLM Banner, Peter seconded. Passed unanimously.

VI Endowment Committee Grant Proposals
Peter

A) Summary

- Four proposals were received.
- The committee did an excellent job

B) Action

Helen moves to accept the Endowment Committee recommendation, Laura seconded. Motion passed.

VII Delegates for Metro/GA Meetings
Laura Krag

A) Summary

- Metro district meeting 5/6 and 5/7 in Morristown
 - (a) Small article advertising in the Newsletter
 - (b) If anyone is interested please let Laura know
 - (c) Need to send a contingent from the Board, especially if you are staying on the Board.
 - (d) Bulk of the work is on 5/7
 - (e) Part of the registration fees covered by the USR
 - (f) It looks like we will make our 6 delegates
- GA was also mentioned in the Newsletter
 - (a) Registration in paid for by USR
 - (b) June 22-26
 - (c) April 18 deadline to respond to Laura or Marty if you want to be a delegate
 - (d) Need to be a current member of USR or another congregation.
 - (e) Need six delegates
 - (f) Hannah Rigdon selected as Youth Business Manager
 - (g) Final Approval of delegates at the Annual Meeting, but they are notified beforehand
 - (h) Announce and an eblast. Past delegates at a table in coffee hour for questions.

B) Discussion

- Next year discuss this in January so that we can start the process earlier

Executive Session

Judd moved to adjourn and Robert seconded
Motion Passed
Adjourned at 8:54