

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
January 6, 2020
7:00 to 9:30 p.m.
Reeb Conference Room

Present: Lewis, Dunnigan, Walters, Markowitz, Josefsberg, Rev. Sarah, Don Campolo (guest), Rob Willis (guest)

Opening Words

The word courage comes from the Latin, cor, which literally means heart. The original use of the word courage means to stand by one's core. This is a striking concept that reinforces the belief found in almost all traditions that living from the Center is what enables us to face whatever life has to offer.

- Mark Nepo

http://marknepo.com/books_finding.php

Looking Ahead

Sally previewed the Board's To-Do list over the next 6 months.

- Plan for Mid-Year Congregational Meeting on Feb. 2,
- Examine the RE program
- Discuss Rev. Sarah's Yearly Review
- Set Budget priorities and goals
- Make decisions about the Budget for 2020-2021 based on Pledge contributions
- Continue to oversee Building Campaign so that spending and decisions are transparent
- Continue to oversee Reorganization efforts and provide support and feedback
- Monitor and support the implementation of REALM.

Budget Drive

Don Campolo presented plans for this year's Budget Drive organized around the theme of "Funding our Mission." He referred to several challenges -- viz., helping congregants distinguish Building Campaign donations from Annual Pledge donations; and incentivizing congregants to increase their donations. He continued:

The fund raising will be compressed and conclude by the Fellowship Feast. Aspirational goals will be highlighted “in line with our mission to change self and world ... This means meaningful compensation for our staff, continued upkeep of our buildings and grounds and funding our social justice activities. So we are asking our congregation to follow up their generosity of this past fall with a renewed commitment to the life of this congregation.

Building Campaign

Rob Willis reported on progress. The roofs are done. He anticipates that construction of the wheelchair ramp to the front entrance will occur in the late spring. He asked for and received Board encouragement to solicit bids for exterior painting of Anderson. He noted that he remains open to other priorities and mentioned solar panels as an example and cited neighborly “nastygrams” regarding fences on the north side of Reeb. Additional projects might be forthcoming from the Safe Congregation and RE Committees as well as from AV (streaming capabilities for example.)

By unanimous vote, the Board authorized the purchase of the “wider, deeper and more cushioned” chairs at a cost of approx. \$30,000 with a March delivery date. Our existing chairs might be donated or given away.

The chosen color (#594) is nutmeg. On Feb. 2nd, Rob will report to the congregation the plan for pacing future projects.

Membership

With the intent of creating a springboard for action, Robert led a walk-through of his observations to date on the topic. These include:

- 1) Aging population
- 2) Need to attract more families
- 3) Impact on pledge drive
- 4) Need to develop a clear plan of strategic action to ensure congregational ownership of the problem and the health of the congregation.

To be continued.

Input for Circle Implementation Team

Sally led the Board in debriefing the recommendations to the CIT arising from the last congregational meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Chris reported that:

- Savings are up approximately 15%
- Actuals show Pledges approximately \$33,000 ahead of last year at this time.
- Building rentals are approximately \$4300 behind last year at this time.
- Fundraisers are \$3000 ahead.

Motion made, seconded and passed: By the end of the 2019-20 fiscal year, \$20,000 will be transferred to the Building Fund from Investments or Endowment.

DRE Report

Discussion deferred until next month

Rev. Sarah's Report

Discussed in Executive Session.

Vice President's Report

The annual MLK Ridgewood and Glen Rock MLK Celebration event is scheduled January 17 to 20. The weekend will include the film "Sound Track for Revolution" with facilitator Rev. Mack Brandon Friday night at the Ridgewood library, a service project for Glen Rock and Ridgewood high school students on Saturday, a gospel concert on Sunday and the annual service at the Methodist church on Monday morning the 20th followed by a lunch.

Environmental Justice second annual vegetarian pot luck dinner on the evening of Sunday, Feb 23.

B. Josefsberg
1/12/20