

West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church
Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, Oct 27, 2022, 6:30-8:55 p.m.
Motions and Minutes
Approved Dec. 1, 6:43 p.m.

TRUSTEES

Present

- Mark Aulisio - Via Zoom
- Cathy Bollin (Vice President) - Refreshments (THANK YOU!)
- *Dierre Cody - absent*
- David Drickhamer (Secretary)
- Brian Gardner (President)
- Kathy Kosiorek
- *Gary Kustis (Past President) - absent*
- Liz Nolan
- Suzanne Rusnak
- Dave Willett
- *Jen Wynn (Treasurer, Finance Committee Chair) - absent*

STAFF

- Suehana Kieres
- Rev. Anthony Makar
- Meghan Ross

MINUTES

1. **Chalice Lighting and Opening Reading** - Liz Nolan
Reading by Robert Frost

2. **Approval of Minutes** - David Drickhamer

Motion to approve September BOT minutes. Motion made by Brian Gardner, seconded by Liz Nolan. All in favor, none opposed.

3. **Justice Vision and 8th Principle Review and Discussion** - Brian Gardner
 - **Justice Visioning Task Force:** Proposal for the BOT to consider and approve the vision/plan put before us by the Justice Visioning Task Force at the previous BOT meeting.
 - Discussion issues
 - Funding questions, how the vision leads to creation of a part-time position to assist with the justice work. Part of our path to becoming a more

Intentional church with clear goals and means. Can we afford this plan? How can we afford it? It's a vision and something to reach for, not a plan with deadlines.

- Language suggestion: Affirming the spirit of the vision. It is a high-level plan. Once the congregation approves the vision, a steering team develops a detailed action plan of what we're going to do and how we're going to do it (including potentially adding a staff position, if possible). - Rev. Makar

Motion that the board affirm the vision proposed by the Justice Visioning Task Force and bring that vision before the congregation at the annual meeting for approval. Motion made by Brian Gardner, seconded by Dave Willett. All in favor, none opposed.

- **8th Principle** - What can we do as a board to support the implementation of the 8th principle? When the steering team of the justice begins its work, how can the BOT be connected and stay aligned with the vision and lead our institutional justice visioning work? - Brian
Suggestions:
 - Education - Start with a book: *Is This Racist?* For the BOT. Distinguish between things that make people feel good, and deeper more meaningful actions. Proposal: It has chapters around preaching leadership, building and grounds, etc. Basically what a church is top to bottom. This would aid future congregational thinking about what it looks like to do this type of work. Create a culture that embraces the values and vision.
 - Partner church lessons - What can we learn from them? What worked really well that could help us, re: anti-racism and justice work.
 - Church Historian - Utilize church historian and archivist, Gail Shaeffer, to review what we've done and what has worked. How do we learn from our past and move forward successfully?
- Discussion:
 - Is this a proposed all church read? It's not an all church read, a suggested BOT read.
 - What can we learn/take from our own history? In the past we've been driven by anxiety into incredible busy-ness.
 - Centralized leadership (BOT) can help sift through what works and what has not. What does success look like? How can we be effective in this work? How can we feel more effective with this work?
 - How can we report out on this activity/discussion/understanding to the congregation? Reflect and discuss at the next BOT meeting.
 - How can we learn from ourselves first, our history and sharing of experiences? How can we be in a productive relationship with another congregation if we don't know our past?

Motion that the board commit to this three-pronged approach that includes study, utilizing our church historian and connecting with a sister congregation to further educate ourselves with regard to implementing the 8th principle. Motion made by Cathy Bollin. Seconded by David Drickhamer. All in favor, none opposed.

BREAK

4. Programming Insight: Earth Fest - Suzanne Rusnak

- Environmental fair: Purpose is to educate, connect and inspire people in the Cleveland area. Actively search out people in the local communities to present. End of April 29th, last Saturday, weekend after Earth Day. Vision is to be so successful that it raises money and becomes something everyone looks forward to in the church and the community.
- Inform everyone in the community about and strengthen the church's ties to the community....
- Establish the event as another successful fundraiser for the church....
- Intergen activity for all ages to enjoy and learn.
- Upcoming Nov. 14th meeting for soliciting further ideas and volunteer input.

5. RE Report - Meghan Ross

- Classes are going well. We could use one more teacher at the high school level.
- OWL for 5th and 6th graders started Oct. 23, 5 children.
- Great participation for junior choir, which performed this past Sunday.
- UU Wellspring has started.
- She attended the annual LREDA conf. In Birmingham, AL. Great source of learning and connection.

6. Financial Report - Suehanna

- Overview - our cash balance is good. There are always peaks and valleys.
- Investment portfolio is down with the stock markets. We do a 12-quarter average to level out our draws.
- Childcare center balance is staying fairly steady.
- ERC still in limbo. Have called IRS countless times and have not gotten through....
- Discussions
 - Monthly call by finance committee to clearly define the childcare center mission and vision. Should this still be a bullet point? *Yes, until we move forward and it hasn't lost relevance.*
 - Issue on whether members should be expected to pledge, something. If so, why? Some of these issues will be addressed during the in-depth stewardship consultation coming in February.
- WSCCC budget is constrained by the availability and difficulty of finding teachers. PPP loan money and the Phase 3 Stabilization Grant are supporting the budget, which is helping to fund some salary increases to aid retention.

Motion to approve the WSCCC budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 as presented on October 17, 2022. Motion made by Liz Nolan, seconded by Kathy Kosiorek. All in favor, none opposed.

7. Senior Minister Report - Rev. Anthony Makar

- In addition to highlighted sections. Live viewers to online services are reported here.
- New principles draft are already in circulation. They will be reviewed at the next GA, and approved the following year. All are urged to check it out.
- Large UU church staff conference (virtual) is coming in early November. Keynote is Paula Cole Jones.
- Board members are encouraged to participate in the upcoming auction.
- 9 new people are being welcomed this coming Sunday (new member Sunday).
- Service auction BOT wine: If at all possible BOT members are urged to buy one white/one red by and turn them into Debbie/office by Sunday Nov. 13th.

8. Looking ahead

- Next BOT meeting in December: We will decide on the annual meeting date, and afterward announce it to the congregation. Should it be a fixed time/month every year (as it once was) on the perpetual annual calendar?
- Email chain being developed to develop a work product for the BOT 8th principle work.
- Ad hoc committee formed to develop the childcare center vision and mission.

9. Closing Reading & Extinguishing the Chalice - Cathy Bollin

“Road Not Taken... Two roads diverged in a wood....” - Robert Frost

NEXT BOARD MEETING: December 1, 2022 (Potentially hosted by Suzanne Rusnak)