

West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church
Board of Trustees Meeting
Thursday, March 23, 2023, 6:37-9:12 p.m.
Motions and Minutes
Approved May 1, 2023, 6:40 p.m.

TRUSTEES

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

STAFF

- Suehana Kieres
- Rev. Anthony Makar
- Meghan Ross

MINUTES

1. **Chalice Lighting and Opening Reading** - David Drickhamer
How Is It with Your Soul - read by Meghan Ross

2. **Approval of Minutes** - David Drickhamer, all changes accepted in draft, *with one clarification. What was it again? The language used for adjusting the governance committee policies.... From Gary Kustis....*
Motion to approve February BOT minutes. Motion made by Brian, seconded by Cathy Bollin. All in favor, not opposed.

3. **Book Discussion (“Wait Is This Racist?” by Kerry Connelly) Ch. 5-6** - Brian Gardner
 - Buildings and grounds and Communications chapters. Questions raised that we should consider:
 - When new folks first step into the church, does it feel welcoming and joyful?
 - How do we feel about our public media and social media messaging....? - Cathy Bolin
 - Is your social manager equipped to manage messages about racism ? - Kathy Kosiorek.

- How do we get out of the talking stage, and more of the doing stage? In the context of social action, how do we move from talking to doing? Who are the planners and who are the doers? - S. Rusnak
 - As part of our welcoming initiatives, are we addressing the physical and unseen challenges of our visitors and members? - Jen Wynn
 - Do we provide members of marginalized communities the ability to create their own groups, or do we create those groups for them? - Dave W.
 - How do the design and condition of the church structures and grounds reflect the church's values and relationship to the community? - David D.
 - Next time: Come with our burning questions.
- 4. Pledge Drive** - Dorothy Faller (unable to attend because of illness, reflection and direction led by Rev. Anthony Makar)
- What's important about this church to you? What do you love about this church?
 - People genuinely care about one another here
 - This is a place to funnel my self-worth and strengthen my sense of purpose
 - The support that you get from the congregation when you try something new with your life.
 - Translate our connections to the church into an annual pledge that feels right, that you can take pride in, and that reflects a meaningful response to our personal needs to maintain a strong and vibrant church.
 - ***From you I receive, to you I give, together we share and from this we live.***

BREAK

5. Annual Meeting Updates and Planning - Board of Trustees

- Next month's board meeting is when we officially determine what will be voted on, as well as the verbiage. If nothing comes up tonight, it might not come up next month.
- Congregational suggestions for annual meeting agenda were directly solicited through church councils. Only one issue was brought up by multiple congregants: Some resolution to the granting minister emeritus status to Rev. Wayne Arnason.
- Reproductive Rights Task Force - Their goal is to learn where the church is at with regard to reproductive health issues and how we wish to communicate that support, including the possibility of another banner and what the verbiage will be.
- Justice Vision Task Force: Congregational vote on the Proposed Collective Justice Vision.
- Proposal of four town hall meetings to drive understanding, discussion and resolution prior to the annual meeting.
- What's the structure for members who cannot be physically present, such as allowing proxy votes to count toward the quorum.

- Communication of Annual Meeting and Agenda: Articles in next *Shorelines*, signage will go up in the church, Rev. Anthony Makar will be announcing the meeting twice from the pulpit, and in the order of service.

6. Religious Education and Engagement - Meghan Ross, presented highlights and challenges from her written summary:

- We're getting a lot of visitors, two new members this Sunday and last Sunday.
- 9 kids signed up for OWL
- Sunday school ends at the end of April.
- Some adult programs didn't have enough sign-ups and were canceled.
- Not enough attendance at Junior Choir to perform.
- There is a new private Facebook page for members.
- Improved social media presence and TikTok videos.

7. Financial Report - Jen Wynn

- ERC payment received, appx. \$43,000. Now in the reserve fund.
- Preview of the annual budget will be ready for the next board meeting.
- Discussion of what finance committee will present at the annual meeting.

8. Senior Minister Report - Rev. Anthony Makar (See highlights from Meeting Agenda)

- Question: Do we need full-time staff to be present at the board meetings?
- Discussion about what information does the board most need from the minister and staff reports. Could be determined at a board planning meeting at the beginning of the church year.

9. Road Ahead, Follow-up Actions, Additional Topics - Board of Trustees

- Monday meeting with Dan Hotchkiss.

10. Closing Reading & Extinguishing the Chalice - Meghan Ross

NEXT BOARD MEETING: April 27, 2023 @ 6:30pm

***Wait, Is This Racist?* Please read Chapters 7 & 8.**

Refreshments: Suehana

Opening Reading: David Drickhamer

Closing Reading: David Drickhamer

PERPETUAL CALENDAR: April - May

April

- **NC** – Announces candidates for the Board and the Nominating Committee if the Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 16 to 31
- **FC** – Provides to the Board a report on the results of an annual financial review or audit
- **FC** – Provides quarterly financial statements to the Board
- **BOT** – Regular monthly meeting – establishes the Annual Meeting agenda if this meeting is the last Board meeting before the Annual Meeting

May

- **FC** – Provides the Board with a status report on all endowment and invested funds
- **SM/FC** – Senior Minister, with support from the Finance Committee, submits a two-year operating budget and a five-year capital budget for Board approval
- **BOT** – Board President initiates an on-boarding process for incoming Trustees
- **BOT** – Regular monthly meeting – approves two-year operating budget and five-year capital budget

BOT: Board of Trustees

FC: Finance Committee

NC: Nominating Committee

SM: Senior Minister