

West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church
Board of Trustees Meeting
Thursday, June 22, 2023, 6:35 - 8:33 p.m.
Minutes and Motions
Approved August 23, 2023, 6:51 p.m.

TRUSTEES

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

- **Matt LaWell** (incoming trustee)
- **Kelly Pinkas** (incoming Vice President)

STAFF

- Suehana Kieres - absent
- **Rev. Anthony Makar**
- **Meghan Ross**

MINUTES

1. **Chalice Lighting and Opening Reading** - "A Flame to Light Our Path"

2. **Approval of Minutes** - David Drickhamer
Motion to approve May BOT minutes from our meeting on May 25.
Motion made by Brian Gardner, seconded by Dave Willett. All in favor, none opposed.

3. **Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes and Debriefing**
Minutes to be finalized by Brian and David, then voted on by email....
Reflections and debrief:
 - We met a 30% quorum and were able to get some things done, woo-hoo!
 - People seemed to feel heard and understood about what was being voted on.
 - We had too much food (and not enough for vegans), and we lost some people waiting until noon. Did the meeting run too long for people on a Sunday?
 - Sanctuary might have been better for AV/slide purposes (but not for food).
 - A few folks missed hearing from the 5 council leaders, but that would have added 50 more minutes. Maybe limit those presentations to a 5 minute video....

- Because we don't want the annual meeting to be "excruciating."
- Suggestion to have a shorter service and start earlier in order to get everyone on with their Sunday earlier.
- Parking lot approach suggested for misc. (somewhat off-topic) questions and issues.
- Request for the board to explain the reasons why behind the proposed changes.
- Could one of the Town Halls been virtual?

4. **Election of Board Officers for 2023-2024**

Motion to nominate the incoming slate of Board Officers:

Cathy Bollin as Board President and Kelly Pinkas as Vice President.

Motion made by Kathy Kosiorek, seconded by Mark Aulisio.

All in favor, none opposed.

5. **Religious Education Report**

- We have wrapped up the regular program for the year.
- Youth program for the summer has a couple of volunteers
- Curricula selected for next year. "Superhero academy."
- Working on recruitment for new teachers.
- 7-9 grade OWL training next year.
- Coming of Age for anyone in high school.

The board gave our deepest thanks to Meghan Ross for all she does for the RE program.

6. **Financial Report - Jen Wynn**

No financial-related motions to approve, which is rare.

Reminder, once again: We still need to articulate and affirm how the childcare center relates to the church's mission....

Capital Budget - We need to help Debbie with that and plan ahead for future needs.

Working Budget coming in September.

Standard process: Gifts to the church need to be accepted by the board, and the donors formally thanked by the board.

7. **Senior Minister Report - Rev. Anthony Makar**

Discussion centered mostly around the Justice and Outreach Council's unanimous request to post a sign stating how many people have died due to gun violence in America.

Is this just an "informational" sign that's not at the same level of our Black Lives Matter?

We don't have a policy to define what a statement of conscience and statement of witness is. Where are the lines in messaging and how do we define it?

The Board determined that we need to consider policy and that such a sign requires further consideration before proceeding.

The board formally thanks Rev. Makar for making the extra effort to present (and represent the church) at the Reproductive Health Care Public Forum sponsored by the Lakewood

Chapter of the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland.

BREAK

8. Book Discussion Wrap Up: “Wait, Is This Racist?”

- Do we have a process for managing an instance when someone feels injured because of their gender, race, ethnicity, etc.? Not really, but we will be revisiting the care covenant next year.
- Board will not/should not take the lead with regard to living ARAOMC (anti-racism, anti-oppression, and multiculturalism values). Maybe the board can guide this work without leading it by proposing an appropriate open-ended question?

9. Open Question Discussion

- Discussion around an Open Question Starting Place: What are some of the biggest unknowns we are facing which, if we could get greater clarity on, would have us in a better position to plan for future growth?
- Growth topics: Membership numbers, motivation, measuring success.

10. Road Ahead, Follow-Up Action Items and Additional Topics

- Potential Board Retreat state: Sept. 16, 9a-4p
- Consider board meeting change to 4th Tuesdays; availability survey to follow.
- Please email Brian our questions and insights to the book, *Wait, Is This Racist?*
- Annual minutes will be finalized, circulated and approved by email.

The Board recognizes and appreciates the contributions of Brian Gardner, Liz Nolan, and Suzanne Rusnak, for their time and effort serving on the board and to the church’s future success and growth.

- ### **11. Closing Reading & Extinguishing the Chalice** - A West Shore story from Brian (after doing his happy dance for finding pants that fit) about how the church opens up unexpected opportunities for love.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: August 24, 2023 @ 6:30pm (Unless it is changed)

- **Refreshments: Volunteer Needed**
- **Opening Reading: Volunteer Needed**
- **Closing Reading: Volunteer Needed**

PERPETUAL CALENDAR: August-September

August

- **FC** – Provides quarterly financial statements to the Board
- **BOT** – Regular monthly meeting

- **BOT/SM** – Agreement on the perpetual agenda for the fiscal year
- **BOT/SM** – Agreement on a schedule for Senior Minister reports to the Board regarding the AVOM and compliance with applicable policies

September

- **BOT** – Regular monthly meeting
- **SM** – Ensures that the Annual Report is published
- **BOT/SM** – Annual Board retreat to:
 - Evaluate the success and any difficulties in achieving the prior year's AVOM
 - Agree on the next year's Open Questions, and a schedule for engaging the congregation
 - Agree on the next year's AVOM

BOT: Board of Trustees

FC: Finance Committee

NC: Nominating Committee

SM: Senior Minister