



Unitarian Universalist Church in Meriden

Board of Trustees Meeting

December 17, 2019

Present (via phone): Sandy Duffy, Jane Dioguardi, Randy Heath, Rev. Tony Lorenzen, Trish Schneider, John Sepples, Paula Snedeker

Absent: Kathleen Lindberg, Ann Smith

1. Chalice Lighting: Rev. Tony did a virtual chalice lighting and began the meeting with an affirmation.
2. Statement of our Covenant: Jane read the covenant.
3. Check-in: Meeting was held via phone/Zoom due to inclement weather; everyone was pleased with that decision.
4. Acceptance of previous meeting minutes from November 19, 2019: Sandy made a motion to approve the minutes from the November meeting of the Board of Trustees. Trish seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
5. Updates on Assigned Tasks:
 - a. Consent Agenda Vote – approve policy: John made a motion to accept the policy (with revisions as discussed at the last board meeting). Sandy seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
 - b. 501c3 Religious Nonprofit Incorporation: Jane and Paula will start research in 2020.
 - c. Rental Agreement Document/Policy Vote: John made a motion to accept the policy with a change to how sexton payments are made. Trish seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
 - d. “Ball dropping” follow-up: Trish will drop Communications Committee and newsletter; she will talk to Donna in January. John spoke with Jeff, who will remain involved only with Worship Associates and leadership development while being an advisor in any other areas. Per Rev. Tony, the Development Team will be working on encouraging people to “put stuff down” so that new people can step forward and become more involved.
6. Copier Lease: Trish has the paperwork; she will work on tomorrow (12/18/19) and as Treasurer can sign the agreement.
7. Meriden Food Service License Application: Trish just needs a signature from Jane or Randy tomorrow (12/18/19) or Thursday; the fee is \$50. We passed city inspection earlier in the year.
8. IC Lewis Painting: Painting was donated to the Andrews Homestead. We have another painting of an early minister/Meriden mayor that needs a home. Tabled for further discussion.
9. Letter of Support for sanctuary for America Mayorga – signed by Rev. Tony and Jane: Rev. Tony signed and sent today (12/17/19) as the court case is coming up tomorrow (12/18/19) and the letter was needed by the judge. Rev. Tony will email the letter to BOT members. Discussed telling the congregation on Sunday (12/22/19) and putting in the newsletter this week.

10. Church credit card: Although there were some concerns at the Finance Committee meeting, having a church card is best practices. Trish is researching if the card would require someone in the church to be held financially and personally responsible if the bill is not paid in a timely manner.
11. All church-used media, accounts, etc. in the church's name: Currently, Sandy pays for internet service, which also includes UUCM phone service. If the account is changed to the church (business) name, the cost will rise significantly. Per Rev. Tony, we need to make this change regardless of the expense.
12. Stewardship Drive: Discussed approaching in a different way this year – not just asking “who can we get to do this?”; nothing says we have to have an annual membership pledge drive. Relying on pledges is “old school” and ineffective, as most congregations are too small and members are not financially well-off. Need to start to change the culture and expectations; it’s not supposed to be an advertising campaign to get people to do what they said they would do when they became members. On 12/29/19, and 1/5/20, Jane will let the congregation know that we’re looking for someone to be the point person for stewardship. Also, Rev. Tony suggested that someone, or a committee, needs to make a plan including stewardship pledges and a calendar of “bigger” and “smaller” events with the cost-benefit of each. Rev. Tony is open to advising this someone or committee on how to proceed. On a related note, Rev. Tony hasn’t been able to reach the person at Yale re: fundraising training in June so that is not yet a definite.
13. Conflict Management Chart: Tabled for further discussion; Rev. Tony will send a diagram that will help the BOT be prepared in case anyone comes up with a significant complaint or conflict.
14. Finance Report / Treasurer's Report: Sandy made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Paula seconded and the motion carried unanimously. An update on the holiday fair: we grossed \$4500 but are still awaiting bills for some expenses.
15. Minister's Report: John made a motion to accept the Minister's Report. Jane seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
16. Scheduling our next meeting: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 7:00 PM
17. Closing: Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Paula A. Snedeker