

## **East Shore Unitarian Universalist Church**

### **Board Meeting 4/15/18**

**In attendance:** Dan Bond, Kathleene Huntley, Halcyon Domanski, Nancy Tozer, Laura Solomon, Kristine Burkwood, Scott Wise, Shirley Hairston, Tiffany Griffith, Mary Bender

**Board Chair report** presented and received.

**Minister's report** was emailed prior to the meeting.

**DRE's report** was emailed prior to the meeting. Nancy asked how many people signed up for 777 class. 2 are signed up right now. Anyone can still join at any time.

**Membership report:** Current membership count is 156.

**Treasurer's report:** Dan paid the balance of our UUA and CERG dues. The rest of year should be routine bills. Next year they want us to pay \$14, 424, which is not a big change.

We are probably receiving a gift from Linda Lekson's trust in the amount of \$25,000 in July. It is unrestricted.

**Financial secretary's report:** The YTD budget for income—we're in good shape. We are up on income, and down on expenses.

**Finance and Stewardship:** Last meeting, disbursements from building fund were not passed by the finance committee first but came directly to the board. This is contrary to policy.

Committee worked on the budget and came up with an \$8, 277.00 gap. The budget Shirley had up on the TV was based on a goal of about \$172K.

Nancy notes that we are currently about \$22,000 under where we were last year. That's about \$36K away from our total goal. The biggest challenge to stewardship this year were consistent pledgers who had to reduce pledges because of personal finance issues. That cost us about \$11K. There are others who have moved away or left the church. Nancy noted that many people have actually increased their pledges. Unfortunately, more had to decrease.

Shirley noted that Patrick McGovern will be chairing the auction again next year; suggested that the board really help and push the event. She explained that at First Unitarian each board member is expected to donate at least one item.

Last year, the number of artists dropped at the art show. Kathleene said we need more people to go out and find artists. Tiffany will reach out to chair Joan McDermott. Kathleene says we need to augment the jury as well, since people who were active are not really anymore.

Projected budget for 2018-2019 is \$196,100.

How do we plug the gap? General consensus was to avoid a congregation-approved loan from the endowments. Other options: more fundraisers—consensus was to avoid this, as current fundraisers are already having dwindling returns. Bequest, cut salary expenses, cut other expenses also discussed. UUA

guidelines recommend a 4% increase, so consensus was to not cut salaries. Kathleene suggested removing the \$1K for mulch out of the budget. General consensus was to use carryover funds from this year towards covering the gap.

Budget now goes back to the Finance committee. We'll be looking at this again in May.

**Committee on Ministry report:** "Finding Your Muse" workshops have been completed and a new mission statement has been created. More details will be shared during new business portion of today's meeting.

### **Action Plan Review**

Not much new at this point. DRE's contract is still being worked on. Hoping to have it finished by September; Cindy Simerly is church's "HR department" and very busy. Nancy suggested that Tiffany talk to Cindy and find out if she would be OK if Ruth Troupe took over the work, since Cindy is very time-constrained.

### **New business:**

*Muse workshop:* Did not take a long as anticipated. Completed new mission statement and covenant—words. Dan made a motion to recommend to congregation to approve the revised mission statement and covenant—words only, not accompanying graphics. Seconded by Scott. Motion carried unanimously.

Nancy said that there is a suggestion to print t-shirts with graphics at one point. Mary pointed out that the \$500 mentioned for doing shirts has not gone through the finance committee or the board. Discussion about the shirts and the fact that the graphics assume the covenant is approved already. Tiffany will communicate to Rev. Denis that the board does not want to spend money on t-shirts for the annual meeting. Also, funds from the workshop should go through the finance committee.

*By-laws:* Dan suggested a special meeting to deal with the proposed changes, as it will be time-consuming. Tiffany will contact Tim Ray, chair of the by-laws committee, about his availability. Nancy proposed doing it at this meeting.

Nancy pointed out that the first eight (8) items in the by-laws packet are essentially clean-up, not controversial things. She moved that the first 8 items be presented as-is to the congregation at the annual meeting. Seconded by Mary Bender. Motion carried unanimously.

Dan motioned that items 9-13 be presented as-is to the congregation at the annual meeting. Seconded by Scott Wise. Motion carries unanimously.

#13: Dan motioned that when we recommend adoption of #13, that we revise that to include the change of the name of the RE Council to Faith Development Council and also change RE Chair to Faith Development Chair. Motion carried unanimously.

Item #14 is to remove the bond of union from the by-laws. Mary made a motion to adopt item #14. Seconded by Tiffany. Motion carries unanimously.

Item #15 was discussed in August by the board already. Dan motioned to decline to recommend this item to the congregation. Motion made by Dan, seconded by Tiffany. Motion carried unanimously.

Item #16: Mary motioned to approve the suggested change except that 4.2.C would not change. Scott seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Item #17: Scott motion that recommendation #17 be approved as presented. Seconded by Kathleene. Motion carried unanimously.

Item #18: Dan moved to recommend suggestion #18 from the by-laws committee to the congregation. Motion passed unanimously.

Many thanks to Tim Ray and the by-laws committee for all of their hard work!

*Slate of Nominees:* Chair: Bob Ross, Vice Chair: Julia Kotowski, Secretary: Laura Solomon (2<sup>nd</sup> term), Treasurer: Dan Bond (3<sup>rd</sup> term), Financial Secretary: Mary Bender (2<sup>nd</sup> term), Trustee-at-large: Jared Hammond.

Other elected board position: Assistant Treasurer: Jerie Green (2<sup>nd</sup> Term), COM :Eric Waldman

Nominating committee: Ken Franklin, J.T. Hillen, Kelli Keyes, Mary Stewart McGovern, Gail Swain (3 need to be selected).

Not to be voted on, but to be recognized by the voting process: Trustee at Large: Scott Wise (2<sup>nd</sup> year), Past Board Chair: Tiffany Griffith, COM: Minna Zelch (who will be COM chair 2018-2019). Karen Biggen and Maggie Caulkins (nominating committee).

Nominating committee needs to add RE chair.

*Small Group Liason:* Judy Wilour sent letter to board asking to no longer hold this position due to time and energy constraints. Mary moved to table discussion until the next meeting.

*Attendance:* Jan Hurwitz suggested that kids be at beginning of services where Rev. Denis is not in the pulpit. The board felt she should talk with RE and Worship Arts.

*Next board meeting:* May board meeting moved until Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm. This is because of the conflict on May 6<sup>th</sup> with the youth social justice field trip to Herps Alive.

*UUJO dues:* \$312.00 recommend amount for dues. Nancy moved to pay \$312 in dues for this fiscal year. Tiffany seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

*Night at the Races:* Nancy moved to eliminate this event this year; not on the calendar and nobody is chairing it. Seconded by Mary. Motion carried unanimously.

*Board went into executive session at 3:10 pm to discuss real estate matters (so moved by Dan Bond).* Motion carried. Executive session ended at 3:16.

Scott Wise will monitor the next board meeting.