

East Shore UU Church Board Meeting November 11, 2018

In attendance: Kristine Burkwood, Dan Bond, Laura Solomon, Halcyon Domanski, Marten Schreiber, Bob Ross, Jared Hammond, Julia Kotawski, Scott Wise, Rev. Denis

In attendance (non-Board members): Patrick McGovern, Bree Byrd

REPORTS

Secretary: Dan Bond moved to approve the September minutes; Scott seconded. Motion passed.

Chair: Bob emailed his report previously.

Minister: Denis emailed his report previously.

Building & Grounds: Thanks to Dan, the dehumidifier has been installed in the house next door. This coming Saturday is next Saturday. Halcyon will start prep for painting as part of that. Bob will put out another reminder about the work day. A couple of shingles need to be put up before it snows—needs to be done this coming Saturday.

DRE: The amount of help and time in creating the Halloween Day—they worked 6 hours creating that space and 2 hours tearing it down. DRE emailed her report previously.

Membership: Patrick sent his report previously. Nancy Bilhary, Jerol Kennedy and Diana Packer have requested to be removed from the rolls. Dan moved to delete Dick Jackson and Marilyn Barber due to their deaths, and to remove Nancy, Jerol and Diana as well. Scott seconded. Motion passes. That puts the current membership at 150.

Treasurer: Treasurer's report was emailed previously. The electric bill was high again last month, but not ridiculous compared to last year. We did receive the \$25,000 from the Linda Lekson trust last week. Scott moved to put that money into the Fidelity account. Seconded by Jared. Motion passes.

Financial Secretary: Nothing remarkable this month.

Finance: We need some people to organize the auction. Need to know if someone is going to run Night at the Races. Status of Rev. Denis' contract? People are still unaware of what's happening with the house next door. An article in the Beacon would be helpful. Bob suggested bringing people over after service to see it. Marten suggested naming it something like the "Annex." Kristen suggested having the Silent Generation naming it as a part of their legacy. Julia will talk to Kathleen Huntley about possibly chairing Night at the Races again this year. Bree offered to co-chair that with Kathleen if she would mentor.

Stewardship: A chair is needed. Ruth Troup and Nancy Tozer have said they would help, but not be in the lead. Julia will talk to Ruth and Nancy about people he can approach for this. Dan will talk to the by-laws committee about making the stewardship chair part of the responsibilities of the nominations committee.

Committee on Ministry: Denis is due for a sabbatical. His contract is up at the end of June, but he doesn't know if makes sense for the congregation for him to stay on board. Attendance is down, energy is down, and this is a congregation that puts a lot of hopes onto a minister. Denis has spent most of his time here dealing with grieving, loss and worship. The COM needs to figure out what next steps are.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ACTION PLAN (What is in this section is what is NOT noted elsewhere in the minutes)

Halcyon prefers a yellow sign for the church. If the Board gives her a price range, she can continue to look into it further. Marten clarified that we're looking to see what we can do with the current sign, rather than getting a new one. Kristen suggested bringing pictures next meeting.

Dan will bring up the new shelving to the Finance committee next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Response to building & grounds help request: Carole Clement responded to this and said she would help with organizational duties. Bob will put another call out on the listserv for additional help. Scott Wise also offered help to Marten.

Chair Plaques: Kathleen Huntley inquired about reviving the sale of these. Halcyon asked for the Board to postpone any sales until after the holidays, since we're already asking for a lot from the congregation right now (e.g., Secret Santa) right now. Discussion of how the plaques don't have to be tied specifically to a chair purchase, but can be memorials, sayings, etc. The Finance Committee will need to take this up and decide how it will work, where funds where go, etc. Rev. Denis wanted to talk to Kathleen about her intention in reviving this as well.

Blood Drive Request: Bea from the American Red Cross wants to know if ESUUC wants to host a blood drive. It has been done here in the past, but it did not have enough organizational support by people here for logistics and so it has not happened in a while. Bob will call the ARC and see how much work would be required for us.

Commissioned Lay Minister Request & Update: Funding might be available through a grant provided by the NY State Convention of Universalists. Bree was advised to still put together a proposal for the Finance Committee.

By-Laws Update: By-laws committee is holding after-service tables where people can come and talk about the status of the by-laws and the current ambitions. The plan is to have a congregational meeting in early 2019 to consider the non-controversial by-laws changes.

Generational committee work: Halcyon has speaking with the youngest generations through Millennials. They said that church needs to be less preaching, more interactivity and hands-on. Laura has not been successful coordinating something with Tiffany. Denis suggested that he, Bree and Jared coordinate with Laura on a proposed brewery event. Julia has had the art show and has not gotten very far. Denis suggested having a group meeting with the board members responsible for the Boomer age group. This past week, Scott, Bob and Denis met with Bill Pastor to talk about the Silent Generation. Bill talked about the idea of legacy more so than change. He comes to ESUUC for life-affirming messages. There idea is to start some kind of pilot program at Breckenridge. Denis is meeting with our UUA representative this Wednesday to talk about our generational group.

Safety Committee Update: There will be a safety drill coming up. It's been recommended that this be done monthly; Marten recommended 1-2 times per year. The committee is meeting this week. Bob will send out an email about the safety committee meeting this Thursday, if people want to attend.

Kelly's surgery: Kelly Bitner is our nursery person. She is going to have surgery on December 19th and will be out the rest of December and all of January.