

Unitarian Universalist Society of Mill Creek – Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – December 12, 2019; 1 hour and 50 mins.

In Attendance: Greg Pelley, Anna Hull, John Springer, Lemaine Peo, Judy Pappenhagen, Melissa Bryson, Larry Dickerson

I. The meeting agenda handout is disseminated by Greg to the group. Greg read a familiar story symbolic of transformation and asked the group to reflect on how the topic resonated with them. We opened up with the Chalice Lighting and we voted on the previous meeting minutes and proceeded with the agenda.

II. Judy suggested to the Board for next years' Holiday party to have finger foods a combination of desserts and healthy choices and Fran Gulino was acknowledged for her work on this. The idea of sending 'thank you' cards to Fran and/or anyone involved. The consensus was that everything seemed to go well.

III. January Congregational Meeting topic – January 12th, 2020. Greg referenced three agenda items: The State of the Union, Finance Team presentation post 6 months, Giving Campaign, and another presentation on Realm and how to register. Community Roe v. Wade commemoration in 2020 will be held at UUSMC.

IV. UU General Assembly 2020 - will be held in Providence, Rhode Island, June 24 – 28 2020. It is highly recommended that some members of the Board attend this. Early Registration is open now through May 2020. Greg reviewed some of the details.

V. Religious Exploration discussion – John addressed the issue of when to advertise for the DRE and preparation for this. Get the participants presently in the DRE program together and determine those core competencies determined by the end of January/beginning of February 2020. John was concerned about being inclusive to all congregants who may not be here by the time this preparation is to take place. Greg's recommendation is to work toward hiring someone for July/August giving us more time to figure out what path to take and get maximum input. Judy expressed concern that the volunteers may become disinterested if the

weekly youth attendance and/or enrollment remains low; and if there's not a DRE in place sooner than later. John suggested that the new DRE must be more involved with the class volunteers. Melissa made the point that in spite of the size of the class, the commitment and motivation must be strong within the teachers. Planning must be modified to fit variable class sizes on a weekly basis, and the vision of the class must be well defined. John suggested that the curriculum to be developed more by the people involved in the program. John remarked that the biggest feedback he was given was that the DRE should be Unitarian to preserve the values and maintain trust of the congregation. Anna desired clarification on what would be communicated with the congregation of the future meeting regarding RE. Judy asked if we should talk about the optimum questions for discussion, the stakeholders, and what the focus group will look like. It is suggested that the as many people as possible must be welcomed to the conversation. Greg reminded everyone to keep the UU mission and vision already in place in the forefront, rather than possibly changing the congregation focus; there was also mention of the possibility of altering how services are performed.

VI. Anna suggested the meeting format could be broken into a large open group and smaller focus groups to talk about RE and obtain data on its current progress and future.

VII. Greg forwarded the notes from the RE focus group to the Board for review and committee meeting in February.

VIII. The "District Leadership Workshop - Resilience: Leadership Development for the 21st century on January 11th, 2020 near Fairfax, VA from 9am – 4pm. Several names of potential leaders within the congregation were mentioned.

IX. Treasurer's Report – John reviewed the current Financials with the group beginning with the Giving Campaign and commented favorably about the numbers. Melissa discussed the Giving Campaign calling campaign and asked for volunteers to assist calling those who were on the lost for their pledge amounts.

X. Judy suggested writing thank you notes for all who've submitted pledges and this was scheduled for January 5th, 2020 and mailed out at the beginning of the week to arrive by the 11th. John gave information on a community Christmas event in Wilmington that is recommended. There was a review of the upcoming important dates:

XI. Greg gave a final reading and the meeting was adjourned.