

USG Board Agenda / Minutes

03-April-2019

Attendees: Debbie Ward, Jenn Leiby, Sam Stormont, Jess Slivak, Michael Campbell, Eva Finney, Nancy Anderson, Joanne Davis, Kent Matthies

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1. Approve February Board Meeting Minutes

- **Decision: The February 2019 Board meeting minutes were approved.**

2. MET Report

See Appendix 1 for the March 2019 MET report

- a) Approve MET Candidates

Nominees to fill two openings in MET include Eric Foster, Betsy Gabriel, Charles Gabriel, Judi Morrow, Nancy LaFauci, Gail Gibbons, Maggie Chapman, Margaret Carillo, Bill Blasdel, and Marilyn Dyson. Andrea Barsevick is no longer under consideration for MET because she has been nominated to be on the Board.

Decision: The Board endorses the nominees for the two MET openings: Eric Foster, Betsy Gabriel, Charles Gabriel, Judi Morrow, Nancy LaFauci, Gail Gibbons, Maggie Chapman, Margaret Carillo, Bill Blasdel, and Marilyn Dyson.

3. President's Report

- The elevator will be open in 2-3 weeks. It is currently functional but is awaiting inspection and a telephone. \$47,000 is still outstanding in the elevator capital campaign but is expected to be received by end of April 2019.
- Congregational Awards will be given during service on 19-May-2019. The Board discussed publishing photos and bios of award recipients, similar to those recently distributed for Nominating Committee and Board of Trustee nominees.

4. Minister's Report

The All-Church Dinner was very successful, with about 160 people in attendance and all age groups represented. The band performance afterwards was also well received, with dancing and generally a good time had by all. The Board is tremendously appreciative of all the work that the All-Church Dinner Committee put in to make the night a success. The dinner was so well attended that unfortunately some members were unable to participate due to capacity limitations, which were exacerbated by the elevator construction. The Board encourages the All-Church Dinner committee to consider ways to include all members who would like to attend in future years.

5. Anti-Racism Updates

- The Ending Racism Committee (ERC) is committed to using the BLUU monthly resources, and the meetings are well attended. The ERC will be discussing future directions.
- The anti-racism book study group has read five or more books related to anti-racism work.
- The ERC has a new affiliation with Men Who Care of Germantown, whose mission is to empower youth and seniors to become responsible citizens and stewards of Germantown. Seniors act as mentors for youth.
- The Difficult Conversations group has been discussing racism and white fragility. The Difficult Conversations format received wide acclaim for achieving deep listening and understanding, and there is interest in continuing with the format.
- The Transformation Team will kick-off with the new Board membership in July 2019.
- A town hall discussion around the proposed 8th principle is scheduled for after service on 14-Apr-2019. A congregational vote on whether to endorse the 8th principle may occur at the Annual Meeting.
- POWER hosted a city-wide anti-racism training at USG over 3 days. Four USG members attended. Attendees included many clergy from multiple denominations.

6. ADI Log and Vision

Topic deferred

7. Save the Date

- Friday, April 5 – Movie “King in the Wilderness”
- Saturday, May 4 – Annual Service Auction
- Sunday, May 19 – Annual Meeting and Board hosting Fellowship Hour
- We have hosted two nationally recognized mindfulness experts twice each at USG in the last year, and we plan to host them again.
- The Annual Retreat is upcoming and a “save the date” will be issued shortly for Saturday 1-Jun-2019.

Appendix 1: March 2019 MET report

Ministry Executive Team Report
March 2019

New MET Members

Delores Hill and Kay Weiser will complete their two years of service on MET at the end of June. Many thanks and much appreciation to both of them for their hard work, dedication, and outstanding service.

We are now in the process of finding two new MET members and are submitting the following names for Board consideration and endorsement: Andrea Barsevick, Eric Foster, Betsy Gabriel, Charles Gabriel.

Stewardship Pledge Drive

Stewardship activities are underway. The official kick-off was held on Sunday, March 17 with a special sermon by Rev. Kent, a story by Ryan Hurd, and music by Mark Daugherty and the choir. Worship was followed by a delicious luncheon organized by Rick and Judy Rhodes, as well as Gloria Guldager and Mike Rogers.

Testimonials will begin on March 24th. The four USG members who will give testimonials are Zachary Bosco, Andrea Durham, Mike Rogers and Kay Weiser.

The Stewardship Circles, which preceded the official kick-off, were a big success and attendance exceeded expectations. The first of three was held on Saturday, March 9 at the home of Rev. Kent and Kristin Shieler. Rev. Kent gave a presentation focusing on the state of the church, followed by Rick Rhodes who guided members in discussion about their experiences in helping USG achieve its mission through financial and volunteer support. Two additional Circles were held on March 16 at the homes of Eva Finney/Kurt Ahrens and Shobhi Kanal/Eric Foster. Many thanks to all the hosts for their hospitality.

A stewardship mailing was sent to all USG households on March 20, making the case for the value of investing in USG and asking for pledges.

New Lincoln Drive Sign



MET continues looking into options for replacing the old, unattractive Lincoln Drive sign with a modern, eye-catching electronic sign. Kay Weiser has been working closely with Carolyn Cotton to gather information about cost. They received bids from four companies and developed a comparison sheet of the cost estimates. In addition, a recent traffic analysis shows that the two-way daily traffic for 6511 Lincoln Drive is 5,300 vehicles. That's a lot of exposure and an easily readable, electronic sign is an excellent way to inform people of the USG's many outstanding programs and services.

Working Group Formed

A working group has been formed to explore viable options for funding an electronic locking system and a new outdoor sign. The group consists of two Board members (Jenn Leiby, Sam Stormont) and two MET members (Rev. Kent, Gloria Guldager).

Church Liability Policy

Beginning April 1, the liability policy for the church will be moved to Sovereign Insurance Group, with the policy provided by Selective Insurance. For the last several years, we have been with JPA Associates (Joe Pekala) with a policy written by GuideOne. The insurance committee (Gloria Guldager, Bill Blasdel, and Al Martin) has reviewed the policy with Mr. Pekala each year and was not satisfied JPA was adequately shopping our policy for the best deal each year. Al Martin recommended we meet with Jeff Beers from Sovereign Insurance Group to see if they would be more willing to shop our policy each year. Mr. Beers did shop our policy to several insurance companies and was able to secure a very good deal from Selective Insurance that will yield an annual savings of more than \$3000 this coming fiscal year. We look forward to this new relationship with Sovereign Insurance Group and trust that we will be in good hands with this new company.

All-Church Dinner

Planning for the March 30 dinner is going well. The event will begin with a reception followed by a pot-luck dinner and ending with a performance by the fabulous Deb Callahan Band. Response to the invitation has been excellent; 160 people have registered. A full house! This year special name tags will be provided designating people's villages.

Annual Service Auction

Planning is underway for the Service Auction which is scheduled for May 4. Notices regarding the auction have been sent out including a colorful "save the date" announcement and a call for auction items.