

Unitarian Society of Germantown

Corrected Minutes of Board of Trustees meeting
December 22, 2015

Members present: Tom Ott, Bill Morrow, Linda Brunn, Craig Miller, Susan Smith, Bob Williford, Scott Wolkenberg, Margaret Kinnevy, Ann Schoonmaker

Others present: Rev. Kent Matthies, Beth Lazer, Christine Ginsburg, Rudy Sprinkle

The board met first in executive session with the members of the Committee on Ministry.

The minutes of the meeting of November 24, 2015, were approved.

Senior Minister's Evaluation Report

Linda Brunn moved that the board affirm the evaluation report of the committee. **It was seconded and unanimously approved.** Kent was commended for his performance.

Assistant Minister's Contract

Rev. Daniel Gregoire's contract and job description **were approved unanimously.**

MET Report

Kent Matthies discussed the actions regarding possible canceling of the early Sunday service. The worship arts committee and staff have been discussing it with leadership groups. There was strong support on both sides at the town hall meeting, too, so there will be more deliberation in early January. It was decided, however, to discontinue the child spiritual development activities in the early service.

Chancel Handrails

Ann Schoonmaker moved that the Building and Grounds Committee proceed with the construction of handrails for the steps to the chancel, for purposes of safety. \$4,500 left from the Sullivan renovation will cover the costs of two iron and bronze handrails. **The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.**

Proposed Revised Church and Board Policies

The Governance and Ministry Task Force proposed four draft policies for review by the board: Board Responsibilities Policy, Removal of Board Members, Endorsements and Sponsorships Policy, and Establishing, Revising, and Publishing Policies. **The board approved the policies with changes to Removal of Board Members and Endorsements and Sponsorships.** Margaret Kinnevy will communicate the changes and approvals to the GMTF for revision before posting.

Covenant of Right Relations

Bill Morrow will draft one for the congregation.

Meeting adjourned at 9:22 pm.

Ann Schoonmaker
Secretary

UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF GERMANTOWN POLICY

Removal of Board Members

The office of a member of the Board of Trustees who commits a serious violation, or repeated violations, of the Covenant of Board Members may be declared vacant by a vote of a majority of the other Trustees. This policy supplements the provisions of the Bylaws with respect to removal of a Trustee. ~~or a member of the Unitarian Society of Germantown.~~

GOVERNANCE & MINISTRY TASK FORCE DRAFT POLICY FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION
12/15/2015

UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF GERMANTOWN SUPPORT, ENDORSEMENTS AND
SPONSORSHIPS POLICY

Rationale

The Unitarian Society of Germantown (USG) sometimes is asked or desires to endorse, sponsor, join, sign on to, commit to, or contribute to various organizations, activities or positions. By way of example, should USG obtain the UUA Freethinker Friendly designation in order to become a UU Humanist-friendly congregation? Will USG endorse a Carbon Fee & Dividend Policy sponsored by the Citizen's Climate Lobby intended to reduce the use of fossil fuels? Should USG sponsor a Boy Scout Troop in order to provide a constructive activity for neighborhood youth and make the church more visible to our neighbors? The list goes on.

Definitions

Support means that the USG acknowledges, through word or occasional financial contribution, the good work of an external organization. An example is Share the Plate, in which an organization is selected by USG's Share the Plate Committee to speak at a Sunday service and receive contributions collected during that service. It is understood that USG may support external organizations in this manner. *For the purpose of this policy, public witness and advocacy activities are considered a form of support.*

Endorse or sponsor will be used interchangeably to mean that USG takes a public stand in favor of a program, position, organization or event, and may offer sustained support through word or resource allocation. It may include joining, signing on to, or committing to an organization, activity or position.

Policy

A. Scope

a. This policy addresses support, endorsement or sponsorship by USG as an entity.

B. Who makes the decision

a. The decision for USG to endorse *or sponsor* an organization, position or program *generally belongs to the Board.*

b. The decision for USG to support the good work of an external organization, position, or program through word or occasional financial contribution, generally belongs to the Ministry Executive Team (MET). The Board, as part of

its oversight function, may require, limit, or prohibit such activities.

c. Some issues are sufficiently important and/or controversial that the Board may decide that they should be submitted to the congregation. The Board may make this decision at any time in its discretion.

C. UUA organizations or positions