

USG Board Minutes for 7/25/17

Present: Michael Campbell, Joanne Davis, Jenn Leiby, Bill Morrow, Eli Searce, Susan Smith, Debbie Ward

Guests: Gloria Guldager (MET), Andrea Parry (GMTF), Kay Weiser (MET)

1) Many thanks to Eva Finney for offering to take the role of Board Secretary for the 2017-2018 year.

2) June minutes approved with no additions.

3) Board covenant reviewed by new and continuing members.

4) The Board voted unanimously approved the Safe Congregations Policy, with thanks to Andrea, Dave Dearden and Jess Slivak for their diligence on this.

Andrea will work with Dave to finalize and MET will move forward with rolling it out to the congregation; Andrea is also working on a short handbook as summary of the policy.

5) Eli gave an update on the ERC/White Privilege issue and what the plans of the groups are moving forward. Gloria let us know about a discussion in MET regarding communications and the desire to clarify the communication process regarding the phrase “white supremacy” (ws) being put forward to the congregation so that when communication gets to Gloria & Carolyn, they know it’s ready to roll out to the congregation. If the phrase includes “culture of (ws), no need for approval, can go right to admin for publication. If it only says “white Supremacy”, it will be forwarded to Eli & Kay first and they will pass it along to Jenn & Delores if necessary. Context is key. Question arose – Should the Board have a stance on this issue? Discussion regarding renewal of Transformation Team efforts and importance of leadership support. Also asked – How do we get the congregation more invested in this work?

6) Please let Susan know if you have any ideas for her monthly President’s Report.

** If you have not already done so, please respond to the survey sent by Linda Brunn.

7) MET report reviewed – of note, pledge connection down \$20k for the 2017-18 year; Stewardship reaching out to those who have not turned in a pledge, and they are confident that the pledges will come in.

8) Discussion about elevator funding – How do we finance this project?

Bill and Michael talked to some local lending institutions to gather information about our options for bank loans or lines of credit.

Next steps – waiting on numbers from banks, then the financing team (Bill, Michael, Rudy Sprinkle) will meet to compare options.

Do we need a congregational vote for a mortgage? Susan will look into this for August.

Are there loans available through the UUA? Debbie will look into this.

Chalice Lighters (Linda Bernstein applying on behalf of USG) deadline is October.

To note, about \$22k has been spent so far for the elevator (survey, excavation, architects, campaign mailing, driveway brush cleanup), all in 2016-17 fiscal year. Nothing has been spent so far for 2017-18.

The following motion was proposed by Bill and unanimously passed regarding the Capital Campaign funds:

“Motion that the loan committee is authorized to solicit a loan of \$250,000 from a commercial bank and that the loan procured capital campaign funds are not to be applied toward driveway improvements, except in the event of a driveway emergency, until the elevator project has been completed”.

August 22nd meeting will take place at Susan Smith’s house due to PIHN residency at USG.

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