

USG BOARD AGENDA / MINUTES - August 22, 2017

Attendees: Susan Smith, Eli Searce, Eva Finney, Jenn Leiby, Debbie Ward, Jessica Slivak, Gloria Guldager, Kent Matthies

Not present: Bill Morrow, Michael Campbell, Joanne Davis

Approval of July Minutes

The July minutes were unanimously approved.

Kent - Welcome Back

Kent expressed appreciation for being back from sabbatical and for the work the congregation did while he was away. He intends to enter back into congregational life with fresh eyes. The worship team will be an area of immediate attention. Kent will also author a report to the Board and MET regarding the primary focus areas of his sabbatical: mindfulness in working with the congregation; video training at WHYY; and what progressive churches can do to meet people's needs in future. The UUA and USG crisis around anti-racism and diversity work, as well as recent white supremacist events, are generating intense feelings and urgency to act now, and Kent will continue the dialogue and is looking forward to tackling these issues.

President's Report

Susan Smith is working on organizing the Board retreat. It will not be held on 23-Sep-2017, but may be on 30-Sep-2017, possibly from 8:30AM-12:30PM. Some ideas for Board retreat topics include:

- Growing membership - Last year's retreat established a goal of growth, but the Board did not act on this goal specifically last year. Susan would like to refocus on growth this year, supported by data. Kent and others (Linda Brunn, Beth Lazer) may share some learnings from recently attended workshops. Getting out the word about USG will be important, and may include updating the sign on Lincoln Drive.
- The CSD program, and how we can continue to improve it
- Mark Bernstein can give a financial overview

Focusing on "why" and "how" during the retreat may be helpful.

Jess Slivak has agreed to represent the Board on GMTF (along with Susan).

MET Report

USG has agreed to extend PIHN hosting for an additional week (total of 3 weeks). Volunteers have stepped up to fully staff PIHN hosting needs for the first 2 weeks, and PIHN will take care of staffing the additional week.

Capital Improvements financing

Preliminary investigations for obtaining a loan, as well as a Chalice Lighters grant proposal, are in progress, to finance the initial expenditures for the elevator and driveway projects prior to all the pledges coming in over a 3-year period.

UUA loan programs:

- Building Loan – covers \$50,000-\$900,000
 - <http://www.uua.org/finance/grants/buildings/loans>
- Small Project Loan – covers \$15,000-\$100,000.
 - <http://www.uua.org/finance/grants/buildings/120472.shtml>

Bill Morrow and Mike Campbell will further investigate obtaining commercial loans to finance the initial expenditures for the elevator and driveway projects.

Debbie Ward will inquire of UUA if there is a penalty to early payment of the loans, and whether there are exceptions to the loan guidelines, especially with respect to Building Loan Lending Guidelines requirement #2 to “complete a capital campaign in which total financial commitments are equal to at least three times the congregational financial commitments (pledges) to the most recent annual budget drive.” Debbie will share UUA loan information with Bill Morrow and Mike Campbell.

GA Delegate Policy Approval

Main changes proposed are that 1) delegates shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees, and that 2) delegates present an oral report to the congregation on the issues before GA.

Decision: The Board approved the revised policy and proposed amendment to the Bylaws so that 1) delegates shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees, and that 2) delegates will present an oral report to the congregation upon returning from GA.

The Board discussed USG possibly supporting delegates financially to attend future GAs, ways that GA issues can be disseminated to the

congregation in advance to inform delegate voting, and improving understanding among the congregation of what UUA is and the importance of UUA's work. Live streaming the Ware Lecture and the Sunday morning service is a way to raise awareness.

Susan Smith will convene a group of past GA frequent attendees to brainstorm ideas for supporting future delegates, as well as possibly obtaining congregational input in advance of GA to inform delegate voting.