

USG Board of Trustees Minutes - 10/27/20

- 1) **Approve 9/22/20 minutes** - Thanks to Nancy Anderson for taking minutes - Sam will send copy to Treva, correct Blue to BLUU.
- 2) **Special Board Meeting to Discuss Covid Relief Fund** - Meeting scheduled for Friday, November 6. A decision was made to stop the annual withdrawal of \$7,000 from the Sullivan fund to supplement the Operating budget, effective with the 20/21 budget. Lee M. disagreed with the decision and Nancy A. and Sarah F. also expressed reservations.
- 3) **Minister's Report** - Kent spoke about the killing of Walter Wallace and the crisis in Philadelphia. He was in West Philly as a form of witness. USG's Black Lives Matter vigil policy was discussed and it was emphasized that the vigil at USG needs to be peaceful.
Voting - We are 7 days away from the Presidential election. Many members are engaged in Get Out the Vote efforts. UUtheVote has contacted over 2 million voters. USG will be a polling place and we will have multiple teams in place for directional and other logistical needs on election day. A leadership meeting is scheduled for 10am on November 4. This meeting will provide an opportunity for check-in, expressing anxiety, factual updates, etc. USG is working in partnership with POWER, the UUA, Northwest Interfaith and others.
Staff Goals - More numeric goals will be included in upcoming staff goals. For instance, at least one video per month will be produced, x number of social media postings will happen, choir will sing once a month, etc.(these are examples of the type of goals, not necessarily actual goals). Kent and the staff welcome feedback. The staff is feeling energized by the personnel review process.
Pumpkin Party - CSD has planned a pumpkin party and 40 people have signed up. Building and Grounds has been asked to check out options for making a large tent available for outdoor events.
- 4) **Financial Reports** - We discussed what kind of questions financial reports should answer. Lee M. is working with Celeste to create reports that will be useful to the Board. Eric, Lee and Celeste met to discuss financial reports and to clarify what deliverables we get from our accountants. Andrea asked for board input for questions to be answered by financial reporting from MET. Board members suggested including 1) items over or under budget amount 2) Items of concern 3) Comparison with last year's budget.
- 5) **Fundraising Consultant** - Itinerant Ink has been engaged to advise us. The goal is to construct and map out a clear big picture fundraising strategy for USG. Do we want to meet with the consultant? Andrea will send us related documents.
- 6) **BLM Vigil Principles and Policies**: Sarah F. suggested considering the sign policy being used by another church (Overbrook Presbyterian) for BLM vigil, which includes no signs about police. Sarah will forward the policy document to the board and the USG vigil group for review. Zachary B. wants to see signs in keeping with UU principles and wants our vigil to be welcoming. The Board discussed incorporating phrasing about signs taken from document Sarah is forwarding. Sarah made the point that all interested parties need to have an opportunity to be part of policy discussions. Zachary noted that we don't always see things the same way and we need to keep an open dialog with the

police. The Board unanimously endorsed the current policy and principles with the exception of sections 3 and 6, which will require further discussion.

- 7) **Revision of Endowment Policies:** Dev proposed forming a small team to work on revising policies and procedures. This group would report back to the Board. Lee recommended focusing on 1) How we make decisions about how things are invested 2) How we spend the endowment funds. Kent would like to engage the entire congregation in this conversation and connect it to all church programs and ministries. Kent also made the point that the USG Board has responsibility for and authority over the Endowment Funds. An Endowment Policy Revision Group will be formed. Suggested members include: Lee Meineke, Dev Howerton, Celeste Lamb, Eric Foster, Bill Morrow, Rudy Sprinkle, Andrea Parry, John Davis, Kent Matthias and Dave Bernstein.
- 8) **Futures Committee** - The committee ended up sorting itself into several groups: those concerned with the long term, those concerned with the short term and those concerned with Safety, i.e. how to clean, separate people, etc. Maggie Beaumont recommended sunsetting the committee since it is so uncertain what will happen as the ongoing pandemic plays out. The recommendation was accepted.

The meeting adjourned at 9:37

Respectfully Submitted,
Sam Stormont - Secretary, USG Board of Trustees