



First Unitarian Church of Rochester
Board of Trustees Meeting
Monday, June 12, 2023
6:00 pm Dinner
7:00 pm in person and on Zoom

Attendance: Emily Clasper, John Farrell, Jon Horne, Lynn Kinsman, Robert Lyubomirsky, Carl Olsen, Anne Perry, Cathy Reda-Cheplowitz, Elise Wall, Rev. Shari Halliday-Quan.

Guests: Incoming Board members: Keith Abel, Erin Collier, Craig Lending and David Pinto

Absent: Ken Buckle, Barbara Gawinski, Gregory North

1. Establish a Quorum and Call Meeting to Order at 7:09 pm — Lynn Kinsman
2. Chalice lighting – Rev. Shari Halliday-Quan
Centering Reading by Anne J. Perry
Things Are About to Get Interesting, by Chelan Harkin
Also, from Anais Nin:
“And the day came when the risk of remaining tight in the bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom.”
3. Consent Agenda [*Note: consent agenda includes items that are distributed before the Board meeting and are voted on without discussion. Any Board member can request that an item be removed so that it can be discussed.*]
 - o May 8, 2023, Board minutes
 - o Anne Perry Day ProclamationApproved
4. Linkage – Barbara Gawinski, Elise Wall, Jon Horne
Next Steps End 4
 - a. Survey done in sanctuary, materials have been collected and will be compiled and analyzed by Barbara Gawinski. Elise Wall and Craig Lending volunteered to help. Results will be reported at a Board meeting in early 2023-24 church year.
 - b. Depending on the results, a decision will be made regarding having focus groups.
5. Greater Good Charter Update. It was noted that Anne Perry had been pivotal in assessing, terminating, and revising all the charters in the past several years when she was Treasurer and then Clerk. But that is not really where responsibility lies. This portfolio will be moved to the Policy Governance Committee of the Board.

MOTION: To amend the Greater Good Charter to align with changes in Social Justice Ministry

leadership as well as additional clarification updates.

Moved: Anne J. Perry Seconded: Gregory North

Approved

6. Ministers Report

- a. Building for Our Future Team will be focusing on building changes that are environmentally sound and on technology to support streaming out of the building. There is a current project to update Wi-fi access within the building that is separate from this initiative.
- b. Materials on a covenant with Elisabeth Halliday-Quan and on ministerial sabbatical will be shared over the next few months.
- c. Per Rev. Shari's report at the Annual Congregational Meeting, one of the focuses in the coming year will be on church covenant and right relations.
- d. A printed version of a report from Rev. Jen Crow regarding how the pandemic has affected congregations, including:
 - i. COVID as a catalyst for change in virtual spaces, building usage and technology.
 - ii. Religious education has been particularly hard hit.
 - iii. Change in what membership, belonging and engagement mean in a time of flux.
 - iv. New pathways of collaboration and partnership.
 - v. Heavier demand on fewer volunteers.
 - vi. Many congregations say that their financial viability or even their existence is threatened.
 - vii. Optimism and a willingness to change make a big difference.

7. Treasurer's Report.

- a. *Please note: At the January meeting, we reviewed the November 30, 2022, financials. There is a more extensive report following quarter ends. At the February Board meeting, there will be an in-depth report covering the quarter ended December 31, 2022.*
- b. Currently on pace for a surplus of revenue versus expense at fiscal year end on June 30, 2023. It was noted that the Sabbatical reserve fund has only \$750 in it and it is contemplated that Rev. Shari Halliday-Quan will be planning a sabbatical in the near future. The Board has the responsibility to provide for any costs of sabbaticals.
- c. Going back to October 2020, the Board approved a project to repair the church windows and it has been challenging to locate the appropriate workers. The vendor who has the experience and expertise for repairing the windows has become available for work this summer and has re-estimated the job. Given nearly three years of inflation, it's not surprising that the amount would increase and there are sufficient funds in the Property Maintenance and Improvement Fund.

MOTION: As of the June 30, 2023, fiscal year close, any surplus of income over expense shall be moved up to \$10,000 to the Sabbatical Fund with remaining rolling to the Operating Cash Reserve.

Moved: Robert Lyubomirsky Seconded: Anne J. Perry

Approved

MOTION: Approve increasing Masonry & Windows Repair Project Motion 2020.10.12.00 amount from \$250K to \$300K. This will enable completion of the last phase of the Project (Windows Repair & Refurbishing).

Moved: Robert Lyubomirsky

Seconded: Anne J. Perry

Approved

8. Other Business:

- a. Expect Board email motion to approve grant awards will arrive in a few days, and before June 20, 2023. Rapid response will be needed so that checks can be issued prior to June 30, 2023.
- b. Orientation for new board members has been scheduled and is open to both incoming and continuing Board members. The Board will not meet in July to make room for orientation.

9. Board Self-Evaluation for 2022-23 church year. Over the summer the church year 2022-23 Board members will be surveyed regarding Board performance over the year. John Farrell volunteered to help incoming President Lynn Kinsman with this effort.

10. Check out: Concern that discussion got off track when attempting to clarify the Building for our Future Team's focus on technology and the current project on technology. Several people stated that while it's good to stay on the agenda timelines, this was important to clarify for both incoming and continuing Board members. Grateful for Lynn Kinsman stepping into leadership in Gregory North's unexpected absence. Thanks expressed to outgoing members. One incoming member found the meeting instructive and is looking forward to the next one.

11. Adjourn. With no objection, meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

12. Chalice Extinguishing – Rev. Shari Halliday-Quan