

CLUUC BOT MEETING MINUTES -8/19/14

Action Items:

1. Inquire with Sara Deschler: How much, if any, does CLUUC use of renewable resources in our energy?
2. Sara Deschler: Please set up a Google Groups for the BoT. Tim will be your liaison with this project.
3. The September BoT will be devoted to Finances.
4. Add discussion points from Abhi's report (see below) to agenda for September (or other) meeting

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members Present: Walt Ellis; Ariel Mora; Tim Persons (Chair); Lyn Peters (Chair Elect); Jack Rodgers(Assistant Secretary); Paul Strella (Treasurer); Michael Thoryn; Kate Simon (Assistant Secretary)Gwen Warman

Board Members Absent: Maryann Dillon; Dave Hawver; Melissa Reichley; Susannah Vesey (Secretary);
Staff Present: Rev. Abhi Janamanchi; Rev. Heather Janules, Rev. Greg Stewart, Emerson Zora Hamsa (Ministerial Intern)

Staff Absent: Sara Deschler

Others Present: David Devlin-Foltz

Opening: The meeting convened at 7:30 p.m. with the lighting of the chalice. Abhi provided opening words with a poem "For Longing" by John O'Donahue, as well as a quote from the Dead Poet's Society, in honor of the late Robin Williams: Carpe Diem. Board members read the *BOT* Covenant together out loud. Board members and visitors shared "check-in" updates with each other.

Approval of Consent Agenda and Minutes of the Board Meeting (7-15-14) : The Consent Agenda contained the following items:

Rev. Abhi Janamanchi's Report (Appendix A)

Ariel Mora moved, and Walt Ellis seconded, the approval of the Consent Agenda and 7-15-14 Board Meeting Minutes; they were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Report from the Endowment Committee Michael Thoryn shared the Minutes from the July 23, 2014 Quarterly meeting of the Endowment Committee (Appendix C). A question had been raised to the Endowment Committee regarding investing the funds in a socially responsive manner (e.g. investing in "fossil free" companies). Michael shared with the Board that the Endowment is invested in Index Funds though Vanguard. The Endowment Committee is staffed by volunteer members, and with a desire to keep the management fees as low as possible. (In contrast, the UUA employs professional management and is able to better select specific funds.) The Board discussed without a decision/direction, whether it is worth the additional costs to invest funds to reflect our values. Given the original question, however, the Endowment Committee has sent a query to Vanguard regarding socially responsible funds. They are awaiting a response. As of June 30, 2014, the Endowment fund is valued at \$3,700,000.00. The Endowment Committee is recognized by Paul Strella, Treasurer, for its strong and effective work in keeping the funds in good financial order.

Report from the Blumenthal Social Justice project- David Devlin Foltz updated the Board with the work of the Blumenthal Social Justice project team. The team is planning to allocate \$45,000 for a social justice project that will contribute to the expansion (outreach) of the church. They are organizing a tangible, hands-on, multi-generational project that will focus on the support of immigrant children in the Wheaton/Silver Spring area. Refer to Appendix B "Update to the Board August 19, 2014 CLUUC Social Justice Committee" for information regarding the process to date of this project.

Abhi and the Board extended a **welcome to the Rev. Greg Stewart, Minister of Lifespan Religious Education**, as he begins his ministry with Cedar Lane. Greg reported that teacher recruitment is going well. There will be 10 new teachers, and 9 returning after a 2 year break. There will be focus this year of integrating social justice themes into the RE program. Greg's Start Up Weekend will be Oct. 10-11, with a focus of setting goals and parameters for a successful ministry.

Heather and the Board also extended a **welcome to Emerson Zora Hamsa, our Intern Minister** for the next 9 months. Heather provided background to the Board regarding granting sacramental authority to perform marriages in the State of Maryland and suggested to the Board that it grant this authority to Zora.

Walt Ellis moved, and Gwen Warmen seconded a Motion to grant Emerson Zora Hamsa sacramental authority to perform marriages in the State of Maryland. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote. (Appendix D)

Report from the Senior Minister: Abhi shared that The Rev. Scott Taylor, UUA's Director of Congregational Life will be coming in September to work with CLUUC's senior and program staff, Board and lay leaders, on becoming a theme-based church. (Refer to Appendix A). Theme-based worship will be phased in gradually, but is hoped to be a significant programmatic improvement at Cedar Lane. Abhi provided staff updates. William Ruiz is leaving his full time position at CLUUC, but will still work weekend and special projects. Terry Sloan will join the Building/Grounds/Maintenance group, starting in September. Janet Cromer will assume the volunteer Pastoral Care Coordinator position. Andrew Batchter has been hired to be the (paid) Social Justice Ministry Coordinator. He will lead the Social Justice Leaders in a 10 hours/week position for 10 months. The position will be re-evaluated after this time. The Senior Staff will be working on the transition to ministry teams. Sara Deschler has been working on these procedures. Abhi shared a list of items for the Board to discuss and consider.

- Would the Board still like Senior Staff monthly reports. What level of detail?
- What is the Board preference for the Senior Staff's attendance at Board meetings? All of the ministers will continue to attend Board meetings through 2014. However, in January, should there be a change?
- Abhi will continue to attend monthly executive mentoring meetings with Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs. He is generating a "punch list" of actions to accomplish this year.
- Heather and Abhi are working on the Ministerial Agreements. They will suggest a move to a 4-5 year cycle. Compensation adjustments can be negotiated within this cycle.
- Abhi would like the Board to recognize Heather's 10 year tenure at Cedar Lane by changing her title to Minister of Congregational Life and Social Justice.

Tim shared with the Board a letter of gratitude for our expression of sympathy for the death of the Rev. Jennifer Slade, of the Unitarian Church of Norfolk. The ministers contributed \$300 to a fund in her memory.

Other Discussion Items:

The Board discussed whether the check-in process should be modified according to time, format, purpose, devotional time. It was agreed that Tim would distill the discussion and send and a modification for the Board to try in the future.

Board members also weighed in on how to best communicate with each other. The Yahoo! Groups does not meet the Board's needs, as many members receive updates only sporadically, if at all. The Board discussed switching to Google Groups, with Sara Deschler was the administrator.

Closing words read by Ariel Mora: a quote about identity and mission by Forest Church.

Adjournment at 9:30 PM.

Calendar Items

Closing Words at September 16 meeting: Tim

Church finances and the Four-year Recovery Plan – September 16 Board meeting

Board photograph – September?

Board Pancake Supper – October 12 (Sunday)

Board field trip around CL campus and buildings – TBD