

CLUUC BOT MEETING MINUTES – 1/30/13

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Don Bliss (Chair-Elect); Kate Curtis; Betsy Devlin-Foltz; Anne Fretz (Asst Secretary); Debbie Scott Goodwin (Secretary); Stew Grubman (Assistant Treasurer); Michael Murray; Ariel Mora; Rick Offner (Treasurer); Sandy Shaw (Chair); Vicky Strella; John Wing

Absent: Tim Persons

Others present: Bill Zellmer, Dian Belanger, Harvey Lerner (all from the Governance Task Force)

Staff Present: Sara Deshler (Church Administrator)

Staff Absent: Rev. Evan Keely; Karen Lee Scrivo (Interim DRE); Rev. Heather Janules

Opening: The meeting convened at 7:30 pm. Board members read the BOT Covenant together out loud.

This special Board meeting was convened to discuss strategies for communicating with the congregation about: (1) governance by policy and (2) the process for hiring a new religious education (RE) leader.

Governance by Policy Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document: Discussion centered around a draft document (previously distributed to Board members) of FAQs on governance by policy. Suggestions were made to add a question about the search process for the new RE leader, to add a question about finances (e.g. is GBP driven by financial considerations?), and to clarify what the congregation will vote on regarding GBP. It was noted that members of the congregation want to know “how will things change for me under GBP?” The Governance Task Force (GTF) will take this input and finalize the document as soon as possible.

Concerns raised about the process for hiring a new RE leader: Board and GTF members who were present at a meeting held on January 17 with a small number of members of the congregation to discuss their concerns about the process for hiring a new RE leader reported on that meeting. The primary issues discussed at that meeting were (1) the credentials to be required of applicants for the position; (2) who will supervise the position, and (3) whether the position will be “called” by the congregation or “hired” by the Board. Those present from the Board and GTF at the meeting felt there was a good discussion of views. Despite this discussion, one of the participants began collecting signatures from the congregation on a petition several days after the meeting; the petition urges the Board to hire an ordained minister who is called by the congregation and reports to the Board. The petition has not yet been delivered to the Board. Board members discussed the importance of getting correct information about the process out to the congregation; the search process will be approved by the Board after the new Senior Minister is settled. There will be a search committee but it will not be elected at the

upcoming April annual meeting. The annual meeting will be an opportunity to continue the conversation with the congregation about this process.

GBP Communications plan: A draft communications plan document (previously distributed to Board members) was discussed; it includes objectives, and monthly tasks to get out the word about GBP. Board members, as committee liaisons, should introduce the governance philosophy statement and the FAQs document to their committees at their next meetings. Structured monthly Congregational Conversations will be scheduled (the next one will be Feb. 10 after each Sunday service); having a facilitator at these sessions might be helpful. Electronic media (emails and the church website) should be utilized, and a governance newsletter column could also be helpful. It was felt that repeated messages about GBP are important.

Mapping out a timeline of the decisions to be made (Senior Minister search, RE leader search, GBP) in a colorful graphic format could add to the congregation's understanding. It was also suggested that the Board hold "office hours" in the lounge after Sunday services in March to answer questions from members of the congregation.

As soon as the FAQs document is finalized, it will be posted on the Board's yahoo listserve for Board members to use with committees to which they are liaisons. It will also be posted on the church website along with the governance philosophy statement.

The meeting concluded at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Scott Goodwin
Secretary

Outstanding Issues: none

Dates to Remember:

- Next BOT meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 19 (closing words – Tim Persons)
- Committees Roundtable (TBD)
- Senior Minister Candidating Week: Sunday, April 7 – Sunday, April 14
- Annual Meeting and Vote to Call New Senior Minister: Sunday, April 14
- Pledge Drive Dinner: April 26
- Auction: Saturday, May 4
- Nancy Pellegrini Ordination: May 19