

Unitarian Universalist Church at Washington Crossing Board of Trustees

268 Washington Crossing-Pennington Road
Titusville, NJ 08560

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 9, 2016



**Join the Journey.
Open to You.**

Kathy Frey, president, called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:01 pm. Also in attendance: Board members Andrew Conrad, Mary Lou Dahms (tonight's timekeeper), Mike Dalzell, Ed Dobrowolski, Mike Hanson, Chris Lynch, Lynne Quinto, and Pam Shadzik; Rev. Kim Wildszewski; and DLRE Robin Pugh (tonight's process observer).

Consent agenda

Mike D moved to accept the consent agenda. Mike H seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Minister's moments

Rev. Kim reviewed passages from her monthly report to the board. It was noted that conversations are taking place internally about ways to ensure that more congregants have an opportunity to participate in the planning of significant church events.

Racial Justice Project update

At the invitation of the board, Sallie Dunner visited for a "mutual check-in" — an opportunity for her to update the board on activities and goals, and for the board to understand how it may offer additional support where needed. Some highlights Sallie shared:

- About 90 congregants have participated in one or more activities
- Movie nights have been popular, averaging about 30 people per showing
- The study group has been investigating outreach projects. Two or three have potential and will be explored further, but CFA doesn't want to rush into anything; it's to our advantage to find partners with whom we will work well and that are a good fit with our aspirations. As such, no partnerships will have been finalized by this June's annual meeting.
- Several ideas for internal activities are under consideration, and one or more may be ready to announce at the annual meeting. There will be a need for more people to facilitate activities next year.

It is possible that the name racial justice "project" will be changed to racial justice "initiative" or similar wording to signify that this is not a fixed, 1-year project. This year is an introduction and the beginning of what is hoped will be an ongoing and ever-deepening effort to build a culture of racial justice at UUCWC.

Kim made the board aware of some low-key discomfort within the congregation related to individual perceptions of this project. It may be necessary to be proactive — that is, to listen for pockets of discomfort, allow people to be heard, and when necessary, communicate the intention and spirit of the program, dispel misconceptions, and provide a narrative for our efforts.

Capital campaign update

Mike Hanson is working with the UUA and others to locate a consultant who can guide us knowledgeably on the conduct of a capital campaign.

Parking update

Mike H reported that it may be necessary to resubmit our parking proposal to the three environmental commissions whose approval is outstanding. Susan Irgang is willing to assist with resubmission.

Treasurer's Report

Lynne reported that this year's operating budget had a \$21,756 surplus at the end of February, due to pledges paid in full prior to the start of the church year. Expenses exceeded income during the month of February. Snow removal costs paid in February totaled \$2308 and included the season's large storm.

The donation of stock from an anonymous donor has been sold through our Scottrade account; at the request the donor, the money is to be used for parking improvements.

Follow-up communication from board retreat

At its February retreat, the board formed an action plan based on congregational responses received earlier in the month. Since then, details have been shared with the congregation through the [board president's blog](#) on the UUCWC website and in the *CrossCurrents* newsletter. Recognizing the importance of being proactive in communicating progress on these efforts, the board tasked Mike D and Mike H at the retreat with developing a strategy for doing so. Mike D and Mike H presented their recommendations:

Having developed and shared an ambitious agenda for 2016, the board should aggressively communicate progress through multiple avenues of communication — the church, *CrossCurrents*, the weekly e-mail, and the Board Minute from the pulpit. We strive to make meeting agendas final one week before meetings and post them online promptly so that congregants interested in attending have adequate notice. Meeting minutes will be approved promptly and posted online, and will include context around our decision-making process. We reaffirm the board's commitment to being transparent about its work, its willingness to acknowledge when we experience difficulties that prevent us from moving forward on specific issues, and the importance of communicating those difficulties with individual stakeholders.

Service awards

In February, the board appointed a subcommittee (Kathy, Pam, and Robin) to make recommendations for the process of selecting service award recipients. After researching selection processes used over the years and speaking with members of former boards, the group felt that it would be best to use our centennial year to recognize those who have received awards in the past and use this time to develop a thoughtful and enduring process for selecting award nominees in the future. Because this will require more time than is available before the annual meeting, no individual service awards will be presented this year.

Lynne moved that at this year's annual meeting, in honor of the church's centennial, we celebrate members and friends of the congregation, including past service award winners, who have contributed to the growth of our church. Ed seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

President's comments

- Kathy thanked the board for its attendance and work at the Feb. 19–20 retreat.
- UUDMNY annual meeting is May 6-7. Our delegates are Kathy, Bernice Husk, and Michelle Hunt.

Housekeeping

- Pam will write the next *CrossCurrents* article, on the service awards process.
- The board will consider the budget at its next meeting, April 13. We are holding April 20 for a regular business meeting, although if business can be postponed until our regular board meeting in May, then the April 20 meeting will be cancelled.
- Future meetings will include time on the agenda for a "process check."

Adjournment and next meeting

There being no further business the board adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Dalzell, Secretary, Board of Trustees