

**Unitarian Universalist Church at Washington Crossing  
Board of Trustees**

268 Washington Crossing-Pennington Road  
Titusville, NJ 08560



**Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, March 14, 2018**

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*Marianne Alt, president, called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Also in attendance: Board members: Ed Dobrowolski, Nathalie Edmond (timekeeper), Patrick Kahney, Lynne Quinto, Pete Raffle (Process Observer), John Ueng-McHale Colin Unsworth, Susan Irgang, Church Administrator and Rev. Kim Wildszewski.*

*Absent: DLRE Robin Pugh (on Sabbatical) and Pam Shadzik.*

**Consent agenda**

**Parking**

- Rev. Kim has had discussions with the township police concerning the parking situation and neighbor complaints. The police advised that if someone comes on our grounds concerning parking, the police should be called to mediate.
- Susan Irgang will send a postal letter to each of the neighbors describing how we have been working to expand our parking and are hopeful to obtain all necessary permits.
- Susan and the parking team have had meetings with Hopewell Valley Engineering concerning parking. The firm feels that we now have the most difficult to obtain permits and has worked in the past with the remaining governmental agencies. Susan will obtain a third bid before proceeding with hiring a firm to complete the work required by the agencies.
- Our approval for parking from the township is expiring. Steve Saddlemire has agreed to represent the church at the township meeting when its renewal will be considered. The cost will be approximately \$1000.

Rev. Kim has had discussions concerning the prohibition of political activity on UUCWC grounds. We must abide by the regulations in order to maintain our non-profit status.

The consent agenda was approved unanimously with Pete making the motion and Lynne seconding.

**Treasurers Report**

**Comments on YTD Results**

- We ran a deficit of \$12K for February, with a \$26K surplus YTD; last year we had a YTD surplus of \$8K at the end of February.
- Pledge receipts were low at \$19K this month; YTD pledges (including late payments from last year) is \$270K, just about on budget. Plate of \$2,305 is below budget again; YTD plate is \$2.8K below budget.
- Staff costs were a bit below budget for the month; was a short month, and professional expenses were low.

- Kitchen operations included installing new stove and our permit renewal. No snow removal expenses paid this month, but they will be due in March. Operations, program expenses are below budget YTD.
- \$100K was transferred from savings to our Scottrade (now TD Ameritrade) account and 4 CDs (each \$25K) were purchased, with staggered maturity dates every 3 months, beginning May 22, 2018.
- Endowment reserve is negative - paid for window tinting for Sanctuary. The Endowment Committee has requested money from UU Common Endowment Fund but has not received it yet.
- We have 5.6 months in reserve.

Ed asked about the status of the request to the Finance Committee to re-evaluate the limits on spending that required 3 bids for expenditures over \$1000 and Board approval for those over \$5,000. In addition, he asked about the rules that would be in place for expenditures related to the Capital Campaign construction. Lynne and Colin agreed to bring these questions to the Finance Committee.

### **CFA Proposed By-Law Change**

The Council for Faith in Action is proposing by-law changes that would allow CFA to approve endorsing issues or organizations. Currently the Board of Trustees and the Congregation must approve.

The proposal would change the following Sections:

Article III Congregation, Section 3.1: Public Expression

Article VII – The Ministry, Section 1: Duties

Amendments to the by-laws were presented, but there was confusion concerning the differences between endorsements on “church property” and “off church property”. In addition, the sentence that guarantees the Minister freedom of the pulpit and freedom of expression was unintentionally removed by the changes.

The board passed the following motion in asking CFA to continue working on the proposal:

*"The Board of Trustees charges the CFA to proceed with the development of the proposed by-law changes related to public expression. Please ensure that the by-laws include a statement guaranteeing the minister's freedom of expression and freedom of the pulpit."*

Ed made the motion and Colin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Auction Theme Discussion**

The Board of Trustees held a lengthy conversation about the change in the theme of the Auction due to cultural appropriation and the aftermath. Here are some of the contributions that were made to the discussion by members of the Board.

We discussed the difficulty in determining the right level of cultural sensitivity. We agreed that there are no rules and we'll need to work our way through the process.

- Concern was expressed that some members will leave the church because of the controversy.
- There was a concern that it seemed that UUCWC was adopting a worldview in which the world is divided into oppressors and the oppressed. That view is not shared by many in the congregation. Where did that philosophy come from? When did we adopt it?
- There was an explanation that many of the concepts are covered in current sociology courses and have been voiced by people of color and reviewed in RJI sponsored events.

- Concern was expressed that the rules related to cultural sensitivity and cultural appropriation are undefinable.
- Concern was expressed that if the adoption of the 8<sup>th</sup> principle endorsed a particular worldview, then most of the congregation doesn't know what they will be voting for.
- There was a discussion on how to communicate the link between the 8<sup>th</sup> principle and concepts such as cultural appropriation.
- It was stated that certain parts of UUCWC appear to be colorblind, not recognizing that colorblindness is one of the things that maintains white supremacist systems, while other spaces in the congregation are able to have honest, difficult conversations around racism which are supportive to some people of color.
- It was stated that UUCWC can and has provided a comfortable place for people of color.
- It was stated that this approach to Racial Justice work is our religion.

### **Adjournment and next meetings**

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Two Board Meetings may be needed in April to consider the budget.

The meetings will be April 11 and April 25 if needed.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Ed Dobrowolski*

Secretary, Board of Trustees