



Unity of Fairfax Board of Trustees

Special Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2018

Attendees

Board Members Present	Others Present	Board Members Absent
Russell Heiland, Senior Minister		
Gail Hughes, 1 st Chair		
Nancy Schneider, Secretary		
Jody Ruth, Treasurer		
Teresa Accomando		
Laura Berry		
Millicent Eubanks		
		John Dickman

Quorum present? Y

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm. Due to inclement weather conditions, a special meeting on Zoom was called. All members waived notice.

Check In: Each member checked in with statements of gratitude and intention.

BOT Set intention for spirit guided meeting excellence: Our intention is to be focused in reality, being clear, open-minded, realistic and pragmatic in alignment with spiritual principles.

Executive Session:

MOTION: Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the Feb. 22, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously.

Scheduled Business:

MOTION: Gail made a motion to approve contributing \$250.00 to Fairfax Alliance Climate Solutions. This motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

MOTION: Jody made the motion: Peter Lunt is authorized to negotiate on behalf of Unity of Fairfax for an extension of the lease with Pinnacle, to the best terms he can negotiate, in accordance with the draft 5th lease amendment. His best lease extension deal will be brought to the BOT for ‘final’ approval before signing. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Minister's Report See Appendix

Financial Report See Appendix

Closing, Pray-Out and Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm

Upcoming Meetings and Dates

- The First Build on Minister's Vision is Saturday, April 14, 2018
- The next Board of Trustees meeting is April 17, 2018
- The next Community Dialogue meeting is May 6, 2018

APPENDIX 1

Minister's Report * March 22, 2018 * in bullet points, in random order

NO ACTION ITEMS

- The FLP Intensive was rich and rewarding. Eight new candidates were brought into the program, three graduated. One of my mentees will be graduate and be ordained in 2019, the other in 2020.
- The emerging Social Justice Team attended the March Sacred Service Council Meeting. A written report from Social Justice Team member Mary Brown is attached. Teresa Accomando and Laura Berry were both in attendance and may want to comment. Prior to that meeting, the Team created a mission, vision and leadership plan (below). I did not submit this to the board at the February meeting since specific processes for engagement were not determined at that time. They still are not. As the notes reveal, the Team would like to collect information from the congregation.

Team Lead: Jacquelyn Smith

Vision: A committed community living our Unity Principles through engagement in social action

Mission: To inspire Unity of Fairfax to participate in activities promoting social justice, equality, and respect for All.

- Ron Karstetter and Linda Powell are at Unity Village for their 2nd Licensed Unity Teacher intensive. It is possible they will earn the credential by year end.
- Holy Week services include Palm Sunday (3/25), Maundy Thursday Communion Service (3/29), Good Friday (3/30), Holy Saturday Silent Retreat (3/31), Easter Services – 7, 9, 11 am.
- On March 29 I will be meeting with an individual to discuss the director of music position at Unity of Fairfax.
- I will be at the Edwene Gaines Ministers' Only Retreat April 3-6 in Alabama.
- David Roth (not of David Lee Roth of Van Halen fame) will be our guest minister/musician on April 8.
- On April 15 I will launch a "Surprise Abundance" program that will run through July 4. People will make a commitment to tithe on their "surprise abundance" as an avenue for growing a tithing consciousness. There will be a handout with a special prayer. During the period, I will ask people who have surprise abundance stories to share at Sunday services.
- The memorial service for Garnett Gamble will be on April 28 at Unity of Fairfax. Officiated by Rev. Donna Johnson, Rev. Sandra Butler and me.

- I will be teaching the Unity SEE course “Prosperity” as a part of the Prosperity Empowering Program on Wednesdays, May 2 -30.
- I will be at the Unity Village Retreat May 17-21.
- Our guest speaker on May 20 will be Rev. Charline Manuel.
- I will be attending a family wedding in Indiana May 25-29. Our guest speaker on May 27 will be Rev. Sandra Butler.

March 10 Social Justice Team Presentation to the Sacred Service Council

Jacque described the background how the team formed and what we have done. She explained that we’ve written vision and mission statements and that she has met with other churches regarding their social justice structures and actions. She said that there have been several meetings at UoF and that the team is ready to start taking action.

Jacque read the vision and mission statements. Several people responded that they liked the statements.

Rev. Jane discussed the difference between social service and social justice and why we need a separate team from the Compassionate Community Service Team.

Teresa Accomando asked for an example of a type of social justice project. Jacque said examples could include a forum on changing policy or marching for a social justice issue – something ongoing and systemic.

Teresa asked how we determine what systemic issue is ours to address. Jacque said that is our question. She explained that we’ve talked about a community dialogue meeting, brainstorming and discernment and that Rev Russ suggested we start with the Sacred Service Council. Teresa said that made sense so that we could align with the church’s long-term goals.

Laura Jordan said that social justice is an amorphous term and she’d like to give it more form to it, centering on the 5 Unity Principles – focusing on affirmative, not pushing against something, but for something. Jacque explained that the team reviewed the notes of the Spiritual Social Action Committee from last October. This included the point that we express actions in terms of what we are for. Jacque agreed that social justice is an amorphous term and that part of our work is to define it. She said we have two upfront objectives. (1) put a framework/structure

around what we are doing and (2) get together with the UoF community. We don't want the perception of holding secret meetings – we want everyone involved, including families and kids.

Bowman Kell and Teresa talked about the opportunity for different ministries to address the same issue in their own way – through social justice, social service, education and meditation. Each ministry can bring in different participants, involving more of the overall community. All can work towards one issue, rather than in separate silos. Teresa explained that part of the purpose of the Sacred Service Council is to make those connections.

More questions/discussion on the difference between social justice and social service.

Jacque gave the example of how the United Church of Christ in Vienna addressed reduced bus service through social action by organizing the community to advocate for themselves. She also explained their involvement with VOICE.

Laura talked about figuring how deep to dig into the cause of an issue. She said poverty issues go back to a lack of connection with inner Divinity. She said you can get the bus service improved, but part of the problem is the corporate system that treats workers like machines. She said we want to ask how deep can we go and keep digging down.

Ron Karstetter said that in addition to providing services and changing policies, it's also important to make statements about what we stand for. He explained that the rainbow flag is a statement that the church is welcoming and inclusive. He said that the LBGTQ group is inactive now because when people see the flag and hear welcoming statements from the platform and in the music, they don't see a need for a group at this time.

Teresa said the board has been busy, but that they won't forget about the team. She suggested sending an email to the board to request to be put on the agenda. They will let us know the next available time they have for us to come. At that point, someone from the team can give a quick presentation.

Discussion was held on how to engage the community. After discussion, there was support for a survey (with Survey Monkey) combined with a potluck or dialogue meeting. It was mentioned that not everyone is familiar with which issues commonly fall under social justice, or the difference with social service. The survey could give examples to explain. The survey could then list issues for people to rank. The survey would give the date of a follow-up gathering to

discuss the results so that folks know something will come of their answers. The survey will let us know issues of interest, and the dialogue will let us know who may wish to be involved.

Ron asked if once we get our issues, is that all we will work on, or will we take on new issues as they come up. Jacquie and Rev. Jane said that yes, we will provide information on events folks may be interested in, even if we are not involved in the issue, such as the town hall on immigration. Jacquie said Rebecca is setting up a Facebook page for us to post information.

The representative from Grupo Hispano (I didn't catch her name) said that especially as minorities in this country, they are "all in". Bowman said that as an observation, no one has said no to forming a social justice team.

APPENDIX 2

Unity of Fairfax Treasurer's Report FINAL

To be presented to the board at the March 22, 2018 meeting

1. February Results –

Please see the excel workbook which contains all the February financial statements. Key takeaways:

- a. We continue to operate at a substantial shortfall through 2/28
 - i. \$24k BELOW budget
 - ii. \$17k BELOW last year for the same time frame
 - iii. the Unrestricted fund still owes the RESERVE funds \$17k of the \$42k borrowed during Q3 and Q4 of 2017; the balance of \$25k was repaid.

2. MARCH – Preliminary March information reflects love offerings are:

- a. – at the same rate as 2017 (actual revenues are higher at this point in march due to a 4.4k grant
- b. on a run rate basis we are about 2k less than our budget for march activity itself

3. ACTION – What is driving this action by the community (or lack of action)

- How can we get to the root cause? (ex – gave it all in Q4 17, tax reform, dissatisfied, went to Labyrinth project, etc.)

- o Online survey?
- o Anonymous written survey on Sunday's?

- How can we communicate the need for steady love offerings throughout the year in a manner that people actually act on it?

- Are we confident about embarking on a major capital program before we have evidence of the necessary robustness of the love offerings to cover day to day expenses?

4. You will note that:

a. The financials continue the language of restricted vs. unrestricted funds that we discussed in the 2018 budget discussion

b. We show a SOA by FUND (unrestricted (or the general operating fund), Reserve and Unrestricted including all the subfunds

5. Terminology

a. SOA or Statement of Activity = Profit and Loss statement or Income Statement or P&L

b. SFP or Statement of Financial Position = Balance Sheet or BS