

Minutes First UU of STL Policy Board Meeting
Monday, October 14, 2019 at 6:30 PM – Room C-1

Meeting was called to order by President Sue Ashwell at 6:32 pm

Members: Sue Ashwell, Andrea Berin, Sarah Francois, Pamela Geppert, Joel Minor, Karen Siegrist, Margaret Weck, Kathy Wilke, Steve Wilke - **Absent:** Gene Rubin

Staff: Kim Mason, Lynn Hunt

Council: Charlie Kindleberger

Opening Words Pamela Geppert read "Finishing Up" by A.R. Ammons

Chalice Lighting Margaret Weck

Reading of Board Covenant Margaret Weck

Process Observer - Joel Minor

Introduction of Guests - Larry Dusenbery from the Search committee

Consent Agenda – Accepted and Confirmed

Approval of Minutes - (August, September)

Report of the Minister, Kim Mason

Report of the Administration, Lynn Hunt

Report of the Board President, Sue Ashwell

Report of the Church Council Chair, Charlie Kindleberger

Old Business

A. Update on the draft of the Policy for Managing Disruptive Behavior-Sarah Francois and Joel Minor. Sarah Francois reported. The sub-committee is looking at the policy as it relates to the all-encompassing umbrella of congregational safety. What would this policy look like in terms of our RE program, during services, daily interactions of congregants and staff, the Safety Committee, the Right Relations Board sub-committee. There may be other areas yet unexplored. In addition to the discussion about the policy Francois mentioned some other items under the congregational safety umbrella. Lisa Presley, the MidAmerica UU Congregational Life consultant lists safe congregations as one of her deep areas of expertise and has been approached for assistance. Lisa Cary is working on putting policies together from the Safety Committee. The RE policy needs to be updated. The draft for the disruptive behavior policy has additional areas to address such as sexual harassment. The use of safety drills for the congregation and staff may be implemented. There are a lot of resources out there for training and safety. Our insurance company even has safe congregation videos. Emergency numbers such as the dispatch number of the security company should be available at the door for greeters and others. Progress toward updating the walkie talkie system is being made.

B. Nov 1-2 Start-Up Weekend with Dori Davenport-Thexton – Kim Mason and Sue Ashwell spoke with Davenport-Thexton the week before this Board meeting.

On Friday, November 1: Potluck starts at 6:00 pm and is open to all members of the congregation. Lynn Hunt reminded the Board that the church provides childcare at congregational events if needed. It was suggested that the availability of childcare be added in the website information in addition to the online form. The after-potluck conversations will be guided by Davenport-Thexton. Board and Council members are asked to bring beverages for the event. Sheryll Coulter has agreed to do decorations. There is both an online sign-up and a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

On Saturday, November 2: From 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Davenport-Sexton will meet with the Policy Board and Church Council to discuss topics related to governance such as the history and culture of our church; responsibilities of the Board, Council and Minister respectively; our Mission, Vision and Purpose; Minister – Board Covenants; etc. Lunch will be provided.

New Business

A. The Search Committee presented an email and a letter to the Board. Larry Dusenbery attended as a representative of the Search Committee. The Search Committee dissolved in June after the vote to accept Kim Mason as our new minister, but the members plan to put together a list of what was learned from the process and tips for future search committees. These can be added to the church archives to aid future search committees (hopefully many years from now) and will be shared with the UUA Transition Office. The letter expressed the search committee's appreciation of being such an integral part of the search process, and their enthusiasm for the nomination and selection [process used to form the committee. There was discussion about how their experiences could best be used to provide momentum to the growth of our new ministry and the congregation - perhaps as a theme for the Mid-Winter meeting. The Board felt there was some ambiguity in the text of the letter and asked Dusenbery to have the search committee members look it over and perhaps clarify some of the points. The decision on how to best use the letter was tabled for further discussion.

B. Nominating Committee update– Karen Siegrist Board Liaison, Karen Siegrist moved to approve Erin Milligan as Chair for Growth and Engagement Cluster. Kathy Wilke seconded the motion. Approved by voice vote. Siegrist reported that the nominating committee assisted in repopulating the Membership committee. New members are Gwenne Hickman, Heidi Meister, Susan Morse, Tony Fathman and Peggy Feinberg. The nominating committee is looking to add more members. Specifically, the committee is seeking a RE-aged member and

is working toward gender equity in membership. The nominating committee is writing up process and other information for our committee standardization project.

C. Committee on Ministry – Board will be asked to confirm the committee membership when the slate is ready. Kim Mason reported that they are actively working to build the committee. Betty Neill has agreed to chair the committee. There is a diverse list of prospective members and as people are contacted and accept the nomination the Board will be notified.

D. Mission Statement in the By-Laws – “This Church covenants to provide a hospitable sanctuary for people to seek sources of spiritual strength and to encourage people, in the Church and in the world, to work for love, decency, tolerance and justice.” Part of our duties is to evaluate our work toward our stated mission. This will be addressed at the Start-Up meeting and will continue.

Other Business - None

Check-in with Process Observer, and any other meeting feedback. Joel Minor reported that the process worked for most of the meeting. New business section A needed more time than was allotted in the agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22pm

Next scheduled meeting is Monday, November 11, 2019 at 6:30pm