

Unitarian Society of Ridgewood
Board of Trustees Meeting: 1/9/17

Convened at 7
PM

ATTENDEES: Willis, Smith, Duran, Nadler, McMurray, Krag, Nolan, Josefsberg,
Rev. Tony Johnson, Johanna Seale

AGENDA

December BOT meeting minutes approved via email.

1. Reading

*We accept the snow of winter/It lies about us like immortality... We accept the winter of
ourselves/ But even so, hemmed in by immobility/ We learn how much we contain/Fallow, we
await the germination.*

--Leonard Mason

2. Check-In

3. BOT Goal Review

Foster Increased Engagement of Friends and Members of our Congregation
Discussions are ongoing with relevant Council chairs.

Focus on Key Issues of Institutional Stewardship: Maintain / Increase Membership
"Sometimes you just have to ask." Rob and Rev. Tony met this fall with congregational
visitors and elicited a number of member book signatures.

Membership Facts (from Ann Pareti;)

2016 Visitors = 84

Green Sheets Completed = 60

2016 New Members = 17

2015 New Members = 9

2014 New Members = 20

Current Membership = 261*

Current Friends = 113

* The number of certified members to be submitted by 2/1/17 to the UUA.

Ongoing work: To define a membership pathway.

Improve Communication: Partner with Membership Council to Promote Awareness of Society Events

Committee formed to consider possibilities

Focus on Key Issues of Institutional Stewardship: Support the RE Program to Grow and Enhance our Programming

December meeting of RE Committee (including BOT liaison) reviewed RE outcomes and curricular integration. February meeting to focus on "Theological Diversity."

Review How We Raise and Spend Money

[See Treasurer's Report]

4. New Minister's Housing Package

At the request of the Ministerial Search Committee, the BOT discussed parameters of a prospective "Housing Package" for the new minister. Topics touched upon in a wide-ranging discussion included: impact of past experience; priority upon supporting a candidate of choice; "skin in the game;" "reasonableness" and fiduciary responsibility.

Discussion is ongoing.

5. Interim Minister's Report (See Attached)

Rev. Tony noted recent congregant losses and saluted Ann Pareti for her above and beyond work during the holidays.

In the context of concerns about the functioning of the Ministerial Relations model, he referred the BOT to a “very good webinar about the Bob Latham Committee on Ministries model.”

<https://www.midamericauua.org/programs/leadership-development/webinar-videos/2628-committees-on-ministry-2>

The Latham model provides feedback and assessment to all the groups providing ministry to the congregation --- in contrast to one that focuses upon the professional minister. It creates a forum for systematic review over a defined 3 year cycle. Congregational stability is needed for it to work.

Reminder: Community Pot Luck on January 22nd.

6. DRE Report (See Attached)

Johanna’s report was praised for “delineating what we want our children to have.” Responding to a question, Johanna said that the curriculum is the subject of “ongoing assessment.”

80 students are now registered.

7. Program Council Update

Conversation focused upon ongoing volunteer needs. Rob affirmed the right of membership to access the results of the recent congregational survey.

8. Treasurer’s Report / Budget (See Attached)

Peter provided a comprehensive report and balance sheet.

As reported, we are \$61.8k ahead of budget – a big jump – presumably the result of end of year pledge payments. Pledge payments offset reductions in “Other Revenue.”

Expense reductions realized from heating, repair and clean-up lines.

Upcoming Events

- Town Hall Meeting on USR Policies – January 22nd
- Service Auction - January 28th
- Lead / Fair Share Donor Event - Feb 12

Adjournment: 9:20
Submitted by B. Josefsberg (1/16/17)