

Unitarian Society of Ridgewood

Board of Trustees Special Meeting: 5/01/17

Convened at 7:05 PM

PRESENT: Willis, Duran, Krag, Nadler, McMurray, Smith, Josefsberg, Brennan (via telephone), Rev. Tony

1. Opening Words / Chalice Lighting

We pray without ceasing. Every secret wish is a prayer. Every house is a church, the corner of every street is a closet of devotion. Every desire of the human mind is a prayer uttered to God and registered in heaven. Those are not prayers, which begin with the normal appellatives of the Deity and end with His Son's name and a ceremonial world – those are not prayers, if they utter no one wish of our hearts, no one real and earnest affection, but are formal repetitions of sentiments taken at second hand, in words the supple memory has learned on fashion. But the true prayers are the daily, hourly, momentary desires that come without impediment, without fear, into the soul, and hear testimony at each instant to its shifting character. And these prayers are granted.

---- Ralph Waldo Emerson

3. Interim Minister's Report (See Attached)

Rev. Tony reported that he had, “survived seven days of meetings in Texas and in NYC.” where he attended the *Revolutionary Love Conference* devoted to developing tools for fighting racism as well as maintaining spiritual discipline and emotional health. He cited the influence of Frank Zeidler --- a socialist mayor of Milwaukee in the 1950's --- whose eponymous *Center for Public Discussion* is focused upon *[fostering] civil dialogue & inviting trust in the midst of differences.*

<https://www.zeidlercenter.org/>

Before Bernie Sanders, There Was Zeidler, a Religious Socialist

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/02/us/before-sanders-there-was-frank-zeidler-a-religious-socialist.html? r=0>

4. DRE Report (see attached)

5. DRE Search Update

Laura reported that a search committee has been formed that includes, Laura, Bill Belknap, Eric Fuhrman, Stephanie Brennan, and Judd Seals. A job posting should be available by the end of the week.

A discussion ensued about the merits of an “acting” vs. “permanent” appointment. Rob emphasized the importance of Rev. Sarah’s involvement in the search. It was noted that “acting” vs. “permanent” are not mutually exclusive categories.

6. Staff Evaluation Update

There is reason to be optimistic that all USR staff members soon will be evaluated.

7. GA Delegates Update

Laura reported that Marty Lavanhar and Mary Byron will serve as GA delegates and that Caroline Lavanhar and Carol Lozcalzo will serve as “offsite” delegates. Hannah Rigdon may also attend. Delegates are authorized to cast votes for the UUA president. The USR may send six delegates.

8. Sponsorship of Katie Byron

The BOT voted unanimously to serve as Katie Byron's congregational sponsor as she begins her ministerial studies at Boston University.

<http://www.uua.org/careers/ministers/becoming/sponsorship-by-congregation>

9. Treasurer’s Report (see attached)

10. Budget Discussion

The BOT discussed the upcoming 2017-18 budget at length and agreed to meet again on May 8th to finalize the discussion. We are in a "solid" position, operationally and otherwise: this year's expenditures match this year's budget, next year's anticipated income makes realistic the aim of a balanced budget.

Capital needs are an issue.

All agreed that we need new signage in front of the building.

11. Repair & Maintenance

Several repair and maintenance items will be addressed shortly.

12. Annual Report Preparation

Timelines for preparing the several reports are fast approaching.

13. Upcoming Events

- Waking up White Program May 11
- Budget Presentation May 21st
- Annual Meeting June 4
- Year End Picnic June 11

Adjourned: 9:15 P.M.

Bernie Josefsberg