



Board Meeting – Aug. 21, 2019

Our Mission: To be a compassionate, welcoming community that nurtures spiritual growth and practices justice.

Meeting Minutes

Board: Gail Bishop, President; Ann Hutton, Vice President; Rob Harveland, Treasurer; Greg Turosak, Secretary; Kim Reid, Dave Siljeborg, Joe Lobl, Molly Dingel and Sarah Hayes, Members at Large; Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer, ex officio

Absent: None

1. **Call to Order and Chalice Lighting:** Gail called the meeting to order and the chalice was lit. Gail provided reflections on the topic “Beauty.”
2. **Consent Agenda:** Motion by Ann, second by Rob, to approve Consent Agenda and minutes from July, including a summary of the board retreat. Approved.
3. **Financial update.** Rob reported income is ahead of expenses. Rob said there was some discussion by Finance Committee regarding the current surplus, and Finance wants to keep the surplus in reserves.
4. **Minister’s report.** Rev. Luke reported on a number of matters:
 - a. **Summer attendance.** Attendance has been strong, and high. This past Sunday, attendance was at 146, so we’re at capacity in terms of summer. Should we be considering options such as 2 services during summer?
 - b. **Recap of Boston trip.** Rev. Luke was one of four chaperones on the trip, which included 10 youth. The trip was great. Youth planned to give their perspectives on Sunday, Aug. 25. Rev. Luke said he was struck by the youths’ response to historic old churches. The youth talked about transcendentalism and nature, and referred to a strengthening of their “faith,” what Rev. Luke referred to as part of a “sea change” in youth, in contrast to humanism.
 - c. **Staffing update.** Darin Podulke-Smith has been hired at 20 hours/week as building assistant. Rev. Luke asked that any concerns or suggestions be directed to himself or to Erika in the church office. Also, Amy Nelson will be acting Religious Education director following the resignation of Joyce Rood. Rev. Luke said Joyce left on good terms to pursue a different career path. Amy will serve for the fall and early winter, and possibly for the entire year, and could apply for a permanent position in an opened-up hiring process.
5. **Old business.**
 - a. **Liaison reports.**
 - i. **Property.** Greg said that Eric Egler reports the following: (1) A tree on the west hillside will be coming down soon; (2) AIM has approved a concept for wheelchair access to the chancel. Design has met and is in discussion regarding the ramp. Property Committee will meet in early October to go over ramp design. Looking for a late January to early February build. Greg reported a good outdoor property day the prior weekend.

- ii. **Sanctuary.** Molly said it looks like we won't have a guest, and otherwise there is not much to report.
- iii. **Religious education.** Sarah said Rev. Luke's report covered most of it. Kelli Rae Kirkpatrick is new RE Council chair.
- iv. **Stewardship.** Joe noted that Amy is now pulled away from her stewardship role with taking on the interim RE position. Ann suggested that the role might be rotated. Gail asked Joe to keep the board informed.
- v. **Endowment.** Not much new.
- vi. **Personnel.** Kim reported that Dave Edmonson and Jo Payne are willing to continue in their roles. Motion by Kim, second by Ann, to have Dave and Jo continue in their roles. Approved.
- vii. **Safe congregation.** Dave said there's nothing new to report. Gail said it would be good to have sex offender policy in place by year's end.
- viii. **Nominating.** Gail reports nothing new.
- b. **Shared Ministry team.** Gail reported that the Shared Ministry team will begin meeting in the near future.
- c. **Audio-visual improvements.** Rev. Luke said that a team has been meeting to consider options to improve the AV system. Rob said the current system does not have the capacity for closed captioning.
- d. **G-14 Disruptive behavior policy.** The board discussed revisions to this policy. Among the points raised during the discussion: Do we need to define the small response team? (Rev. Luke: Could vary depending on the situation); When to call 911?; Who is the policy for? Proposed revisions based on discussion to be incorporated into a new draft and come back to the board in September.

6. **New business.**

- a. **Grace Notes.** Following Gail's first submission, the order of the quarterly articles for Grace Notes (to be penned by the four board officers) will be: Ann, Greg, Rob. Erika will let the authors know about the deadlines.
- b. **Room name.** Ann said the Sanctuary Steering Committee has suggested considering naming the board/conference/sanctuary room after a person. One of the suggestions was Elizabeth Palmer Peabody, an educator and transcendentalist of the 1800s. Motion by Rob, second by Kim, to rename the conference room the "Elizabeth Palmer Peabody Room." Approved.

Board meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Greg Turosak, Secretary