

UU ASHEVILLE
MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

11 April 2023

The meeting was held via Zoom. Present: Clyde Hardin, Adam Griffith, Julie Stoffels, Karen Dill, Margaret McAlister, Mary Alm, Cliff Hall, Will Jernigan, Rev. Cathy Harrington, and Laurel Amabile (who departed at 7 p.m. for a work-related commitment). Guests: Gina Phairas, Wendy Motch-Ellis, and Phil Hammond.

1. Call to Order

6 p.m.

2. Opening Words and Chalice Lighting

Julie read four stanzas from Amanda Gorman's "The Hill We Climb"

3. Check-in

Until 6:22 p.m.

4. MSC Update

Gina Phairas, chair of the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC), gave a summation of the qualifications of our newly-selected Ministerial Candidate, Dr. Rev. Audette Fulbright-Fulson.

The MSC members, Board members, the Transition Team, and Senior Staff and spouses will attend a reception for Rev. Audette at UUCA, Sandburg Hall, Saturday 22 April, 2 - 4 p.m.

The Board of Trustees is scheduled to meet with Rev. Audette on Tuesday 25 April in Sandburg at 7:30 p.m.

Gina encouraged us to advocate among members and friends to come out to show how excited we are to have Audette joining us.

Every Tuesday in April is a candidating week ENews. Then there will be a regular ENews on Wednesday. Next week's ENews will explain the voting process.

It is necessary to have a 90% positive vote of those voting to call Rev. Audette on April 30th.

At each event during candidating week there will be opportunities for a Q & A session.

5. Consent Agenda

President's Report

Q'Pasa

March Minutes

Minister's Report

Mary asked who is leaving the Board: Julie, Karen, and Laurel who will attend their last Board of Trustees meeting in May.

In the first meeting of the new Board, in June, the Board members will elect the new officers.

In June the three newly-elected Board members will attend their first Board of Trustees meeting.

Rev. Claudia made a comment in her report that monies from the Clark/Mark fund does not need to be spent by a certain date. Mary will relate that there is no date end for the fund. A portion of it could be used for the purpose of hiring an Equity Auditor.

The Consent Agenda passed by unanimous consent.

6. **Budget Discussion**

Wendy began the Budget discussion at 7. Clyde stated that we would be making no decisions this evening. We need time to absorb its content. We will then respond later. We know, going into this, that costs are going up and pledges are going down. The first draft is just that, a draft. Marta and Wendy will meet tomorrow. We will meet before the June 4th vote on May 23rd to review the final version of the Budget. The town hall meeting for the budget is May 21st.

Wendy devised new expense account lines that provide a more specific set of data allowing easier tracking of budget detail.

7. **Kudos** Julie appreciated Will's very appropriate use of the word *charrettes* in his Annual Giving Drive (AGD) written summary report.

8. **AGD Discussion**

7:28 pm

Will: We will likely be facing a \$175,000 deficit. Now is not the time for extreme austerity, especially with a new minister coming in. In the history of the church, and in town halls, people have in the past have said they would have given more had they known about the shortfall. This plan, the four pillars, needs time to mature. Therefore, the AGD committee does not support a drastic budget change.

Messaging to members/friends will not include deficit language.

A positive and candid approach will be the focus after the vote for our new minister, giving our four-pillar approach time to succeed.

In the month of May, we will have another heavy push. We will target outreach to those who did not pledge, those who did not increase, etc.

Town Hall: May 21. We'll assume we may be able to close the gap. The final budget will be presented to the Board on May 23rd.

Only about 22 people have not auto-renewed. About 9 of those are active.

We will have an extension of the Annual Giving Drive to minimize the gap. It will take targeted emailing and 'phone calls.

Clyde will soon send a short list for each of us to follow up on 'phone calls.

There is a large number of no increases. We are assessing next steps for those people.

Do we have a sense of other congregation donations? The UUA publishes some of this on their web site. Clyde assessed that and sees that we are not unusual, but could be

better. Adam suggested that, now we know who our minister candidate is, we might use a tactic for obtaining more donations.

Will: we are not relying on growth alone.

Cathy: the language needs time to develop. The excitement will be there when we have the opportunity to interact with the candidate.

Wendy: Shared that Gina was appreciative of our reaction in December to Marta and Wendy's report. We did the heavy lift by creating the four pillars approach.

Practical Optimism—Cliff

Realism and a strengths-focused approach is a healthy approach.

9. **Process Observation** We used a good process and did well at making up time.

10. **Closing Words & Chalice Extinguish** Julie read a quote from Wendell Berry.

11. **Adjourn**

7 56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Stoffels