

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Wilmington, North Carolina
Board of Trustees (BOT) Meeting Minutes, January 23, 2024**

Attending: Robert Demko, Kathy Gillcrist, Jane Horrell, Jeannie Lennon, Dennis McCulley, Gary O'Connell, Jimmy Reeves, Michael Sheridan, Fran Strauss

Ex-Officio: Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt

Guest: Rev Kelley Wheat-Rivers, Jeanette Koshar

Call to Order: Gary called the meeting to order at 5:15, chalice was lit and Reverend Kathy provided a reading.

Approval of Minutes and Reports:

January's minutes were approved with a small edit.

Finance's report was approved as submitted.

Executive Report:

Reverend Kathy suggested the Board set a path to become a "Welcoming Congregation" by completing the recertification process. Gary committed to taking the starting steps to further this initiative.

The Worship Committee is without a Chair.

Conversation ensued, topics included Conversations with the Board, Board photos for the foyer and the status of Google Docs.

Michael shared a statement on Israel as an alternative to the current statement on the front page of the website:

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Wilmington, North Carolina believes that people everywhere deserve a life of safety and freedom. We decry the ongoing conflict and violence in Palestine and Israel, Ukraine, Sudan, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Haiti and elsewhere, and commit to work for a world where diverse peoples can coexist peacefully. We also commit to speak out against antisemitism, Islamophobia, and other forms of religious intolerance and racial/ethnic hatred in our community and around the world.

The Board voted unanimously on using Michael's suggested statement in lieu of the existing statement. Jimmy will work with Jo in Communications for appropriate placement on the website.

Sound levels in Dobkin Hall:

Now that the carpet has been replaced with hard flooring, there sound levels in Dobkin Hall have become quite loud. The Interior Committee is looking for low-cost solutions. Other options include accustic tiles, although they seem costly. More information to follow.

Search:

The Search Committee completed video interviews for the Settled Minister. Three candidates will be invited for a weekend visit.

Fundraising:

Mystery Dessert Event planning continues. Kathy G and Dennis met with Linda and Stacy to discuss the event. Other fundraising opportunities could include a craft fair and auction.

Event Space/Rentals:

A procedure needs to be established for Holly to better manage rentals. Congregant Paul to put together a comprehensive rental document, intended for the Photography Club rental group. Questions on this subject included:

- Will this document be our standard template?
- What's Holly's role in the rental process?
- Does the Board create and vote on a contract?
- What's the Fee Schedule?

Gary and Dennis will speak with John Grigsby about this.

Definition of Friend v/s Member:

Reverend Kathy pointed out that this work would typically fall within the purview of the Membership Committee, but they're currently overworked. Thus, it's the Board's task to define the roles. Fran offered to reach out to Eileen for her suggestions and will follow up with findings and possibly suggestions to the Board.

Michael suggested brochures in chair-backs on how to become a member.

Reverend Kelley Wheat-Rivers' role:

Various Board members have concerns, or have received congregants' concerns, that Kelley isn't overrun with needs beyond her agree-upon job duties. Both the Board and Reverend Kelley are thoughtful and want to ensure boundaries are kept to ensure she's not overworked and/or burned out. The Board and Reverend Kelley committed to maintain open lines of communication on this matter. Reverend Kathy suggested that upon her departure, and lack of a Settled Minister in place, the Board designate a supervisor to ensure Reverend Kelley has a single person to reach out should she need. Gary accepted the role.

Meeting Adjourned.