

Beacon Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Summit
Board of Trustees Meeting, 1/16/18

Present: Heather Turnbull, Michele Blanchard, Emilie Boggis, Dave Gordon, Robin Tanner, Carol Miller, Neal Eisenstein, Chris Grazioso, Susan Spencer Cramer, Tuli Patel

Chalice lighting and check in

1. Neal made a motion to approve December minutes; seconded by Carol. Motion passed unopposed.
2. Susan made a motion to empower Social Justice Team co-leaders and sub-team leads as a body—in concert with the minister of worship and outreach—to sign petitions and letters of support on behalf of the congregation that are in line with previously passed congregational resolutions with timely notice given to the board; Carol seconded. Motion passed unopposed.
3. Executive session
4. Fiduciary update (Chris). No major changes. Dave gave an update on Building Campaign pledges. Next fiscal year budget process will start soon.
5. Sanctuary update (Robin)
We will be able to get a permit given several small fixes, including replacing a window and a carbon monoxide detector. Will add 6-8 weeks to process.
6. Alternate revenue stream discussion (LT)

Report from the LT considered the parameters around creating revenue streams and made several recommendations. Some ideas were discarded or delayed because of high startup costs and potential liability (for example, a UU preschool). The revenue streams discussed in the report are the most realistic (and conservative) based on the building plans.

Executive summary: 2 recommendations

--create a 501c3
--leverage new building for rentals; start memorial and wedding ministry; create a social justice retreat center

To create and pay for a second floor dedicated to commercial rentals, LT proposed cutting the cupola from the initial design, which will save considerable funds. Idea is to create space for a long-term dedicated commercial tenant, with market-based rent. Also need to be aware that we may be liable for property and possibly income taxes. Heather raised the idea of how we would handle parking.

A social justice retreat center is close to our mission (and keeping it missional befits a 501c3). Rationale: Many retreat centers are far away; groups are likely to gravitate to something closer to NYC; we will have a new working kitchen.

Discussion of pledging trends and potential operating budget.

7. Discussion of becoming a 501c3 (Tuli)

Some differing opinions on whether to make this switch. There are risks in changing away from a corporate designation. Most faith communities outside NJ are 501c3s (so this is a NJ problem). We need much more focus on this issue and will do so at the next Deep Dive.

Motion to adjourn.