



CEDAR LANE

WHERE **LOVE** WORKS

Board of Trustees meeting minutes
August 16, 2022

Attendance

Officers: Bob Essink (President), Roger Santodomingo (president-elect), Nancy Janssen (Assistant Secretary), Sandy Stalzer (Treasurer)

At-Large Members: John Dunn, Marilyn Emery, Nancy Floreen, Eduardo Hernandez, Mamahau Tswaedi, Stephanie Williams,

Absent: Sandy Dawsey (Secretary), Nate Hultman (Past President), Jennifer Morley (Executive Director), Jack Rodgers (Assistant Treasurer), Sandy Shaw

Staff present: Rev. Abhi Janamanchi

Guests: Betsy Binckes, Shira Ehrlich, Raj Mehta

Opening

The meeting began at 7 pm. Abhi provided centering with a Frederick Buechner reading.

Consent Agenda

In response to the Financial Report included in the Consent Agenda, Nancy Floreen asked that the Endowment Committee update the Board on investment losses in the endowment and capital campaign funds. Sandy Stalzer indicated that the Endowment Committee would be meeting in two days and the exact amount of the loss would be discussed.

Action Item: Sandy S. will report back to the board at the next meeting.

Update on Congregational Name Change Process

Roger Santodomingo discussed the process to obtain input from the congregation on a name change for Cedar Lane. This would most likely result in dropping the word, "church" from our name. A letter to the congregation and listening sessions on Sept. 18, 25 and 29 were proposed. The purpose of these listening sessions is to obtain congregational opinion, suggestions on names and whether a congregational vote later this year is requested. All board members were encouraged to attend. If broader input is needed a congregation-wide survey will be initiated.

It was decided that after the listening sessions the October Board meeting will include a focused discussion on this issue. Based on congregational input and this discussion, the Board will decide at that point if it will be recommending a name change at a Congregational Meeting later this fall. The assumption at this point is that the legal name of the church, Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, would not change. Rather, a “doing business as” (DBA) name would be adopted and used in all external communications and signage.

Orientation for New Board Members

Bob asked Board members for any feedback on the Cedar Lane or Fairfax-led board orientation sessions. John Dunn thought the governance by policy explanation was especially helpful. Stephanie Williams said many aspects of the training were helpful.

Sabbatical Planning

Abhi commented that sabbaticals are for renewal of the spirit; they are taken after 5-6 years of service; and 1 month is accrued for each 6 months of service. Four months of sabbatical remain for Abhi to take. Coverage options include: having a full time sabbatical minister replacement; having ministers in residence change monthly; or having different ministers lead worship each Sunday. This will be determined by Abhi and a sabbatical team that will be appointed to work with him during the planning process.

Both staff and congregational needs must be considered before the sabbatical is taken. Abhi wants a four-month sabbatical next year. We need to budget for this, consider a special fundraiser, and establish a sabbatical fund for future minister sabbaticals. Abhi is currently starting his tenth year and is overdue for a sabbatical and needs a good sabbatical plan in place.

Action Item: Bob will work with others to determine who will be on the Sabbatical Planning Committee. Betsy, Raj Mehta and Bob will be on the committee.

Pledging Updates

Marilyn reported that pledges received for '22-'23 are 10% below our budgeted pledge goal. Another push for those who pledged in '21-'22 but have not pledged in '22-'23 (representing \$60,000-\$70,000) is recommended. The chart on pledging status is updated regularly. Abhi noted that 92% of those who pledged in '21-'22 have paid their pledges.

Action Item: Marilyn will ask Jen Morley to update the pledging status chart and restart calls from Board members to members who have not made a pledge for the 22-23 church year.

Board Retreat Schedule (all at the Chalice House)

Friday, Sept. 9, 6:30-8:30pm:

Dinner and talk by Abhi (Stephanie will assist)

Saturday, Sept 10, 9am to 2pm:

Agenda will be small group discussions on a wide range of emerging issues (long trend of pledging deficits; online versus in-person church attendance; 8th principle; reproductive justice partnering, etc.)

Dare to Dream 2022 Raffle

Nancy Floreen reported that the DARE TO DREAM RAFFLE will sell tickets September 16 - October 20, and the drawing will be held October 23.

Closing

Roger, the process observer, commented on the high quality of open exchanges at this meeting. Sandy Stalzer gave the closing words. The meeting adjourned at 9pm.