

First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia

Board of Trustees Meeting

February 21, 2019

Present: Annemarie Vaeni, Rev. Abbey Tennis, Zinat Yusufzai, Debby Schultz, Rebecca Ortenberg, Stephen Oliver, Scott McCarthy, Norman Fouhy

Leadership votes

The Board unanimously approved Scott McCarthy as Secretary and Ken Olin as a member of the Committee on Shared Ministry.

CADBI Sign-On Letter

Martha Copithorne and Sonja Dahl presented to the Board as representatives of CADBI. Following their presentation, the Board unanimously approved having the Church sign-on to the CADBI letter supporting certain proposed Pennsylvania state legislation on providing parole eligibility for people sentenced to life without parole.

Consent Agenda

The board unanimously approved the January board meeting minutes and the business administrator's report. In March the Board will review both the February and March Minister's reports.

Friends of 2125 Updates

The board reviewed details of a recent meeting that members of the Steering Committee had with the Friends of 2125 Board. The board discussed that an MOU between the two organizations is being developed by 2125 with a draft expected by mid-March, that board comment and review is expected to be complete by the April Board meeting, and that a Congregational vote will follow. The board outlined general steps of a communication plan for the Congregation.

The board unanimously approved the creation of a LaFarge Window Restoration Task Force and empowered the Steering Committee to determine the members of that task force.

Continuation of staffing and budget conversation

The board heard comment and discussion from the Minister regarding the complexity of issues affecting staffing decisions and how the Minister is directing the Staffing Task Force. The board agreed that representatives from the board, FWG, and the Mission Vision Team should be tasked to work together to provide guidance supporting the development of a Mission Based Budget. Additionally, the board agreed that the aforementioned group and the Staffing Task Force should each identify “stretch” budgeting objectives.

Assessing goals from September

The board reviewed the goals and assessed that it had been making reasonable progress against those goals. The board noted that, in particular, it would need to do more work on engaging in active listening with the Congregation and continuing work on creating consistent communications channels with the Congregation.