Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Date: February 21, 2024

Attending: Lisa Gilley (President), Pat Wydell (Vice President), Debbie Lee (Treasurer), Dan Yokas (Secretary), Denise Sepos, Emilie Cheng, Jerome McDonnell, Tim Reuter-Bowers, Ryan Schaefges Trustees. Reverend Denise Cawley

Lisa Gilley called the regular monthly meeting of the CCUU Board of Trustees to order at 7:00 p.m. Pat shared an opening reading, and the Board members recited the Board Covenant. With a quorum of trustees present, the meeting proceeded with business.

Last Month's Minutes:
Ryan moved to accept the February minutes, and Jerome seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

New Business

Vote To Approve New Mortgage:

The Board engaged in considerable discussion about several proposals for a new mortgage. Negotiations and details were ongoing, and a written agreement had yet to be signed. Once the written agreement has been finalized, the Board will be convened via email for a final vote.

Since our Board meeting on February 21, the following two motions were made by Treasurer Debbie Lee and unanimously approved, via email vote.

- The Board accepts the new mortgage terms as provided by Cornerstone Bank. This includes a mortgage amount of $224,184, over a 15-year amortization period and includes monthly principal and interest payments of about $1,995. Our rate will be 6.75% fixed Also included is a $400 documentation fee and any third-party costs.

There is no prepayment penalty attached. If an environmental study is needed. That will be an additional cost. The signers for this mortgage will be Lisa Gilley (President) and Debbie Lee (Treasurer).

- The Board approves that the funds in the Fifth/Third money-market be transferred from Fifth/Third to Cornerstone Bank and that the signers on these funds are Lisa Gilley (President), Pat Wydell (Vice-President), and Gary Labedz (Controller).

By-Law Review:

The Board reviewed all proposed By-Law changes discussed to date in preparation for possible congregational vote in May.

Pat led us through a discussion of the changes. No action was formally taken to vote on the recommended changes. The changes that were agreed upon will be incorporated into the existing By-Laws document for a formal vote in an upcoming Board meeting.

The agreed upon changes related to the following:

1. Allowing the Search Committee to be 5 instead of 7 members.
2. Allowing business meetings to be attended remotely via video presence
3. Not allowing nominations for the Ministerial Search committee from the floor of the Annual Congregational Business Meeting. Additional Ministerial Search Committee members may be nominated from the floor.
4. Including reference to Minister as non-voting member of the Board; clarifying wording around President Elect Role.
5. Not allowing voting by secret ballot in Board business meetings
6. Having Board President select Nominating Committee convener with consultation with Board (versus without consultation with the Board).
7. Refining the Treasurer's role.

8. Explicitly documenting that remote voting is allowed for congregational meetings
9. Adding the definition of the Executive Team to the definitions in Article I
10. Limiting the request for anonymous voting to 7 days advance notice due to technical difficulty of voting anonymously via Zoom.
11. Vice President – removing explicit all-encompassing claim that VP will do other duties as assigned. (This is not unique to VP.)

Changing The Date For The April Board Meeting: The April Board of Trustee meeting will remain on April 17th as originally scheduled. Board members were also encouraged to keep Tuesday, April 23rd, open for a dinner meeting with the Settled Minister candidate.

Voting Process for Settled Minister: The Board discussed ensuring that individuals voting on Zoom are eligible members authorized to vote. Someone needs to monitor Zoom voting to ensure compliance with voting requirements.

Task Force To Review/Update Operations Manual: Lisa encouraged us to consider creating a task force to update the Operations Manual. Debbie and Emilie indicated interest. We are all encouraged to get involved and recruit other church members who may be interested in joining this task force.

Ongoing Business

Financials: The finances are in good shape. The Stewardship Campaign is in full swing. This year's budget is $568,000, up from $532.00 last year. The new budget does not include fundraising (including Giving Tuesday) but consists of a 7% increase in total spending. Pledges need to increase by 17%. We anticipate some large Capital expenses in the near future.

Time & Talent Auction: **Raise The Paddle options.** The Board was encouraged to consider what causes or issues might be worthy of a "Raise The Paddle" event at the Time and Talent Auction and to bring those ideas to the April Board meeting.

Update On Mission Statement. The Mission Statement was approved at the January Board of Trustee meeting. Jerome presented the "Explanation" that will accompany the Mission Statement. After reviewing and discussing the document, Jerome moved to approve the Explanation of the Mission Statement, and Dan seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Safety Glass Update: We are still getting estimates, and there is no action to be taken at this time..

Ditch Burn Update: There will be no Ditch Burn. Our insurance company (Church Mutual) will not approve coverage for that activity.

Closing Reading & Adjournment

Pat provided a closing reading.

Dan moved to adjourn, and Debbie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Next Board meeting will be on March 20, 2024.