

## People's Church Board of Trustees Meeting

November 7, 2023

6:30-8:30pm

### Minutes

Present: Cindy Pietras, Brian Lewis, Joe Hampel, Dan Bair, Rick Johnson, Gordon Bolar, Donna Kaye, David Isaacson, Laura Bultman  
Rachel Lonberg (minister), Melissa Emrich (Administrator), Tom Hackley (Treasurer), Greg Feldemeier (Investment committee)

#### Opening:

1. Chalice Lighting and Words: Dan Bair
2. Check-in: What's your favorite thing about the holiday season? (Joe Hampel)
3. Affirmation of covenant, mission and vision

COVENANT: We convene, bringing our best selves - prepared, listening and open - as we work together to further the Mission and Vision of People's Church.

MISSION: A beloved community embracing and serving our diverse world.

VISION: Aligning with the Principles of the UUA while growing in love, People's Church:

- ☐ Builds a diverse and inclusive loving community
  - ☐ Freely searches for truth and meaning
  - ☐ Provides solace and rejuvenation
  - ☐ Embraces equity and pursues Social Justice
  - ☐ Cares for our planet Earth, the home we share with all living things
4. Reviewed and approved minutes of October 2023 meeting.
  5. Reviewed and approved agenda of November 2023 meeting.

#### Board Business: (Joe Hampel)

1. Review and discussion of Anti-racism policy. (Joe Hampel)

This is the policy clarifying Article III of the by-laws. The board discussed the policy as written and voted to adopt it.

2. January Meeting: the board will meet on the 9th of January instead of the 2nd.

#### Church and Staff Updates:

1. Financials Report (Tom Hackley & Greg Feldemeier)

Greg Feldemeier reported on the investment committee's work. There's a question about the reserve fund and if it is still necessary. Moving the money to the Palmer fund would make it more complicated to use the money because it would be subject to congregational approval. One time last year it became necessary to move money to cover payroll so we need the money to be accessible so we can move quickly as needed. Money cannot move out of the investments unless it goes into the church checking account.

Brian Lewis asked if we have a surety bond. Rachel noted that we have insurance so we can make financial choices.

We are overextended on Board Finance because we made a payment to the denomination. This will balance out.

We have not pulled anything from the Palmer fund yet. We budgeted for \$20,000 and we may need to draw from it in the spring.

### **Update on Fall Stewardship**

Things are looking good! We've got \$36,000 as of Monday, November 6th with a few more pledges coming in. The campaign has officially ended.

### **Estate Planning**

Jeff VanderStraaten has offered to lead some sessions on estate planning and legacy giving, possibly starting in December. This would eventually be a form or some other document that each person would pick up and work with independently, not something that the church would need to be involved in.

## **2. Staff and Committee Reports (Rev. Rachel)**

We have a few people who wish to be recognized as new members on Sunday, November 12th. Board members need to read the bond of union and light the candles for the ceremony. Brian Lewis and Rick Johnson will do this.

Melissa wrote a report about the wifi and internet usage at church. The Board thanks Melissa for her work in getting this done.

Of note: at the end of the elementary RE sleepover in October, Diane's beloved dog Gryffin was hit by a car and killed. It's a tragic loss for Diane and there were a lot of children who processed their sadness with Rachel in an impromptu group counseling session.

### **Update on our year's goals:**

- Preparedness check-in (Gordon Bolar)

The committee is creating an action plan that will hopefully be shared with the board at some point in December. The goal is to have the safety team up and running in January. We have a shelter in place drill coming up.

- Joy: Where have you seen or felt joy at church in the last month? (Laura Bultman)

Cheers for s'mores!

Making pasties for the bazaar

The music service was exceptional

People dressed in costume for Halloween!

The period poverty program and the two teens who started it

Moments of connection and empathy at the RE sleepover

### **Planning for the future:**

Introduction to capital campaigns:

Our last campaign was started in 2011 and was finished in 2020. Since then, a third of our membership has changed so part of the well is new.

This capital campaign would cover things that we cannot cover in our operation budget: the solar panels, net zero emissions projects, securing the building's longevity by replacing the boiler, etc.

The concern is making sure we don't over-ask our congregation for funds, especially with our two extra small stewardship campaigns this year. This capital campaign would probably be in the low six figures depending on how many projects we wish to tackle.

What things are on the list?

The boiler, the furnace, the AC unit

The roof over the commons which Gary Heckman has been fixing with tar

Rick Johnson asked if we need a professional to run our capital campaign.

Gordon Bolar asked when the capital campaign might start and Rachel projected spring 2025.

We may bring this up to the congregation at the May 2024 annual meeting.

**Other?**

**Closing Words: Dan Bair**

**Adjournment at 8pm**