

## People's Church Board of Trustees Meeting

February 4, 2025

6:30-8:30pm

Minutes

**Present:** Joe Hampel, Laura Bultman, Gordon Bolar, Donna Kaye, Brian Lewis, Cindy Pietras, Amy Meyer, Teresa Klan (on Zoom), Juli Ginn (7:15pm), Rev. Rachel Lonberg (minister)

### Opening

1. Chalice Lighting and Words: Juli Ginn by proxy (Rachel read them)
2. Check in: What practices and relationships are helping sustain you in these times? Where are you finding support?
2. 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
3. Review and approve minutes of January 2025 meeting
4. Review and approve agenda of February 2025 meeting

### Church and Staff Oversight:

1. Staff and Committee Reports (Rev. Rachel)

Some committees have stopped meeting, probably due to people being at capacity. Rev. Rachel has checked in with these committee heads to see where each of these committees is at.

The refugee support fund has been reactivated. Rev. Rachel spoke with the head of the Kalamazoo Refugee Collaborative: they have received a grant to help refugee families. Our church is specifically supporting an Afghan family. Another organization has laid off most of their staff so ten families no longer have caseworker help.

Many props and much thanks to Gary Heckman and Luke Howell who alleviated the plumbing issue. This emphasizes the need for a robust building fund!

2. Budget Update

Of note: the RE budget will probably go over this year because of increased programming and trainings.

### 3. Meeting Technology (Rev. Rachel)

There's a microphone that could be purchased to help make hybrid meetings more doable. This would probably cost \$600-1000, but someone could research this if we wanted to add it to our budget. Cindy has one at her work and will look into it.

### 4. Board Nominating Committee (Joe Hampel)

Lori Rupe is getting this ball rolling. David Isaacson is on the nominating committee as the outgoing board member. The process is starting.

### 5. Wage committee update (Joe Hampel)

The interviews with the staff have finished. Joe and Pat met with Rachel and there will be a report ready for next month's board meeting to discuss.

## **Board Business:**

### 1. Board involvement in the Stewardship Kickoff on 3/2

Vision: gentle campaign without stretch goals (eg, last year's 15% increase ask). Everyone stretched last year so this year we hope to maintain and perhaps grow a little. There will be a service and a potluck on the 2nd of March. The board is requested to be there that Sunday for the potluck after the service to be at the tables and provide information, answers, etc.

### 2. Legacy Giving Workshop

Biran Lewis, Allan Hunt, and Tom Hackley have put together a presentation about legacy giving. This will be presented on February 23rd for the congregation.

### 3. Special Fund Creation

We have an endowment that needs to be spent each year outside our walls. It's currently \$3,000. Rachel would start as the administrator of this fund, but would need to find a replacement during her sabbatical. It was suggested that some money from the minister's discretionary could also be used, but that is not currently the path forward. It could possibly be reallocated later. The board voted to create the Resistance and Resilience Fund to provide financial support to those outside the walls of our church.

## **Other**

**Closing words:** Juli Ginn

## Adjournment