

Board of Trustees September 2022 Meeting

Board members present: Claire Wyneken (2023), Toni Saunders (2023), Chuck Schuder (2024), Sara Fleming (2024), Kalen Ponche (2024) Steve Swift (2024) Carole Glauser (2025)

Not Present:

Ministers, Volunteers & Guests: Susan Bell, Doug Wadkins

Gather (5 min)

- Sara offered a chalice reading and chalice lighting.

Claire offered a welcome to the group. Board members checked in.

Meeting Preparation (5 min)

- Finalize agenda
- Transparency Ombudsperson's Report
- Confirm meeting assignments:
 - o Timekeeper - Toni
 - o Process & Transparency Observer - Carole

Consent Agenda (5 min)

- Approve August 2022 Meeting Minutes
- Affirmation of New Eliot members (Bylaws, Article III, Part A): Becky Langrall and Karen Jaques
- Accept Policy Monitoring Reports: ([See Policy Compliance Record](#))
 - o 2.6 Board Committee Principles (Sara/Steve)
 - o 4.5 Financial Planning and Budgeting (Rev. Doug)
 - o 4.7 Asset Protection (Rev. Doug)

Chuck moved and Sara seconded to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report [Sara] The month of July was in the black. Pledges were \$2,700 higher than what was budgeted for the month and expenses were lower. The endowment investments increased about \$5,000.

New Business:

- **Discussion of Board Activities, Linkage and Communications during the Interim (20 min)**
 - o Preparing for our role with congregation during interim: 1) pastoral, 2) share context, 3) convey info to Rev. Doug & Board
 - o The Board is expecting to be in a pastoral framework during this interim

time, being there to support people and also to bring back any major themes to discuss at board meetings. Rev. Doug noted that this is a time in which we are courting a little bit of change so we can be adaptable which may provoke people to be anxious. The board can help by listening and validating and passing along any notes to Rev. Doug.

- Time for Rev. Doug to report to the Board the themes and implications of what he is hearing.
- Pre-emptive communication strategy, goals and actions to be taken by the board - routine communication, and search process - create a team to lead this work. *Kalen, Carole, and Sara will form a team and talk about this issue by the October board meeting.*
- Shared work for Interim period - Claire to put on calendar
 - Operating Plan and Budget
 - Stewardship
 - Mission
 - Strategic Planning
- *Claire will bring a draft calendar to the October board meeting.*

New Business Continued:

- **Discussion of Board Website: Debby seeks input on how we want to use the website and any changes we request. (10 min)**
 - Develop a task group to develop that guidance
 - Report to Debby within 3 weeks (max)
 - *Kalen, Sara and Carole will meet to discuss this issue in the next three weeks.*

Board Development (10 minutes)

- Leadership as a Spiritual Practice dialogue (10 min) [Claire]
- Next meeting topic.
- *Claire will bring a topic for discussion in October and will appoint people to go forward. Steve will do November.*

Unfinished Business (5 Min)

- Staff has created
- T-Shirt Sales next Sunday. Toni and Steve .
- *Claire will touch base with Mary Meihaus about the creation of the fundraising team. Kalen will reach out to Rev. Krista on the creation of a fundraising team.*
- *Selfie Station next Sunday. Sara will do that.*

Minister Incidental Report

The board discussed the themes that Rev. Doug is hearing in his initial interviews with parishioners. Doug said he will report back next month on his plans to address

various priorities and new issues that come forward. These are issues that have been raised three or four times:

- Bergfried and 222 property. People have different understandings of what is happening with these properties.
- People mentioned that Eliot has a special difficulty with change compared to other organizations or UU congregations. They also mentioned that they want to move forward and not go back.
- They mentioned that we have a long legacy of strong worship, music and RE.
- People are wondering what size are we?
- Perceived areas of strong divisions- people who are interested in spiritual development vs political or social justice things.
- Major division between families and long term members.
- Struggle with volunteers and generosity.
- Stewardship at Eliot is not strong. Don't remember a time in the last decade where it felt that way.
- There are a lot of healthy people in the congregation, balance and maturity.
- Governance came up a lot. Many people don't understand what governance is and what policy governance is and they don't understand how it works. People raised hopes for Krista or anxiety about what would happen with her in the future.

Final Discussion

- *Sara will send an email to the board to update contact information.*
- *Claire will send the tshirt spreadsheet to Steve and ask Camille to make a folder for it.*

Meeting Summary:

Process & Transparency Report -

Decisions/Actions Taken/Follow Up

- Adopted Consent Agenda

Assignments for October 11, 2022 Meeting

Policy Monitoring Scheduled for Aug Meeting

(See [Policy Compliance Rec](#))

- 4.4 Emergency Lead Minister Succession (Rev. Doug)
- Carole and Kalen 2.8 complaints
- 4.6 Financial Condition and Operations

8:30 Adjourn

Reminder Dates

Next Board Meeting: October 11th

