

Board of Trustees Report

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Meeting of Tuesday, June 21, 2016

As this was the last Board meeting for the Church's 2015-2016 fiscal year, we want to thank outgoing board members Wendy Jessup and Mary Pike and outgoing secretary Joan Perry for their dedicated service, and welcome incoming members **Al Himes** and **Warren Wright** and our new secretary **Betsey Lyon**.

At this month's meeting, the Board approved changes to its Ends as a result of three policy review sessions it conducted over the past year. Concerns had been raised that Religious Education (RE) was not strongly reflected in our policies, so the Second End was modified to say, "People of all ages experience a vital faith community and have opportunities for personal and spiritual growth." The Third End was changed to include our Church's commitment to Green Action. The End now reads, "The Church is a force for service, social justice, and environmental justice."

Also, the Board discussed the draft Linkage Report which resulted from our interactions with RE families, teachers and staff over the past several months. In an effort to ascertain how RE helps our spirit grow together as a church community, we focused on the vision of how religious education can emerge to become an integrated part of a multi-generational church-wide experience that deepens the values and spirituality of all congregants -- from the youngest to the oldest. When the final report is complete in the next month, we will share our learnings in a separate report in Connections as well as post them on the website for ongoing accessibility. Thank you again to all who participated in this outreach experience.

In keeping with Policy Governance and the practice of reviewing and approving reports that monitor the senior minister's execution of our guidelines, the Board gave approval to 2016 reports related to the appropriate treatment of staff and the Executive's positive communication and support in working with the Board.

It is also the Board's responsibility to review its own governance's processes and effectiveness for how it performs its duties. To allow for greater reflection and more extensive discussion, the Board decided to individually contribute their thoughts to each other through email and then to discern as a group at the Board's fall retreat what is working well and what can be improved. Overall it was agreed that much progress has been made in the implementation of policy governance over the past several years, although we also understand that this is an evolutionary process which requires ongoing practice and learning.

Finally, the Internal Audit Committee presented its report of its review of the church finances and practices. In the alternate years when a formal external audit is not being conducted, we continue internally to evaluate our fiscal health and recommend any changes that might provide better oversight and clarification in the future. After further discussions with the Senior Minister **Rev. Aaron McEmrys** and Chief Administrative Officer **Tamara Srader**, the final report will be posted on the website later this summer and any recommendations made will be enacted as the next fiscal year progresses.

Before we adjourned, the Treasurer **Peter Vitaliano** and CAO offered brief updates on the current budget numbers. As of May, overall revenues for this fiscal year continue to exceed expenditures which could possibly result in an end-of-year surplus. However, deficit spending is expected to return in the next fiscal year due to the transfer of the mortgage from the capital to the operating budget.