

Standing Committee Minutes
UU Wellesley Hills
October 15, 2018

Committee Members Present: Elaine Mittell (Chair), Lise Olney (Past Chair), Kathy Coolidge (Vice-Chair), Betsy Taylor (Treasurer), Nancy Fenstemacher (Clerk), Karen Mariscal, Lelia Elliston

Committee Members Absent: Andy Kemper, Karen Quigley

Also Attending: Rev. Dr. Kelly Murphy Mason (Minister)

Opening

Reading offered by Rev. Kelly to accompany chalice lighting.

Ratified email vote since September meeting:

- Had approved minutes of the September 16, 2018 Standing Committee meeting

Approved minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting held at the request of the LGBTQ Interest Group on Sunday, October 14, 2018 to vote on the following statement and action: The Unitarian Universalist Society of Wellesley Hills declares its support for a “Yes” vote on Ballot Question #3 (on the ballot, Nov. 6, 2018) and approves placing signs in favor of that vote in front of the church. The motion was unanimously approved.

Members suggested converting the minutes into a press release, adding a statement from Rev. Kelly. (See debriefing on the 10/14 Special Meeting below.)

Important Dates

- Our Sexton Fernando Cristancho’s 25th anniversary will be celebrated on Nov. 11, 2018. Kathy Coolidge reported that the celebration will include a cake, a gift, and a card in which cash donations can be included.
- The Installation Service for Rev. Kelly will occur on April 7, 2018, 3:00 PM, with a dinner the preceding evening for Standing Committee members and spouses at David Barnard’s house, and a reception following in Parish Hall for all in attendance at the service. The committee for this event includes Kathy Coolidge, Lisa Markey, and David Barnard.

Minister’s Report

- Rev. Kelly reported that there are seven Touchstone Groups (a new one has been added on Wednesdays before choir practice). Newcomers to the church have been joining these groups.
- The newly suggested 10:00 AM church service start time has met with considerable opposition and the idea has been tabled indefinitely.
- “Fellowship Hour”—11:30 AM-12:30 PM. Rev. Kelly believes we need a full hour of fellowship time without programming after the church service on Sunday to engage

newcomers and to become better acquainted with one another, if we expect to grow as a warm and welcoming congregation. Under the shared ministry model, it is her prerogative to state what she thinks the congregation needs and to promote it. The Sunday Hospitality Team has been apprised of the new time frame and will work to accommodate Rev. Kelly's wishes that food and dishes not be removed from Parish Hall until 12:15 at the earliest. Rev. Kelly has been meeting with coordinators for Bristol Lodge cooking and the monthly Black Lives Matter Vigil, as well as the Sunday morning volunteer coordinators, to discuss shifting to 12:30.

- Committee Name Changes: Welcoming and Outreach Team (formerly Welcoming Committee), Worship Associate Team (formerly Worship and Music Committee)
- Listening Sessions/Café Nero chats: Both are intended for people to share in unstructured ways their hopes and dreams for our church. Listening Sessions will continue monthly, café chats weekly.
- 150th anniversary celebration planning (2020-2021): An ad hoc committee needs to be formed and empowered by the Standing Committee. Standing Committee members interested in being involved include Karen Quigley, Lise Olney, and Lelia Elliston. Standing Committee and Rev. Kelly will work to identify a chair/co-chairs.
- Archives storage—Sarah Bellows-Meister, former ministerial intern, put our church in touch with the Harvard Divinity School program about transferring, organizing, and storing of archival materials. John Nichols, minister emeritus, has a vested historical interest in this project and is concerned about being able to access the records if they are transferred; Karen Quigley, Standing Committee member, has had previous archival experience. Prior to Rev. Kelly's Installation Service, Marc Shechtman will exhibit part of the archives. Rev. Kelly and Elaine will be following up with HDS and with Follen Church, which is in the process of transferring their archives.

Treasurer's Report

- Betsy Taylor reported that the new data base system needs attention. Quick Books online can be connected to the BREEZE system, but assistance is needed to make the functions operative (creating pledge statements, using the data on congregation members to support fund raising, etc.) Lelia is familiar with databases and she offered to help Betsy get it up to speed.
- The issue of which projects can be funded using Capital Campaign donations came up at the September 23, 2018 congregational Standing Committee Update. Betsy shared Capital Campaign documents that list a broad range of potential projects. Betsy reminded the Standing Committee that the authority to determine how to allocate the funds from the Capital Campaign (if less than the desired amount was raised as is the case) was given to a committee consisting of the past, current, and rising Chair of the Standing Committee, the Chair of Building and Grounds, the Chairs of the Building Assessment Committee and the Capital Fund Raising Committee, the Treasurer and the Minister—with final approval from the Standing Committee. Currently, \$30,110 remains in the fund. Standing Committee will be discussing how to prioritize unmet needs at a future meeting and Elaine will convene the decision-making group in early 2019.

Wellesley Historical Society Proposal/Request for Tree/Shrub Removal

A motion was approved to accept the Wellesley Historical Society's proposal to re-landscape the land between the WHS Stanwood House driveway and the UUSWH property. A Memorandum of Understanding will be signed by Jared Parker, president of the Historical Society, and Betsy Taylor, treasurer of UUSWH, to the effect that:

- At no cost to UUSWH, the WHS will remove all trees and shrubs from the subject land that are invasive species or seriously unhealthy or dangerous
- At no cost to UUSWH, WHS will replant the subject land in accordance with plant materials recommended by their landscaper Dovercraft Inc. and as otherwise may be mutually agreed to
- WHS agrees to replant any plantings that fail to survive for one year after planting
- WHS further agrees that in the course of the paving of its driveway and re-landscaping it will not alter the grading to negatively impact existing drainage.
- WHS agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the UUSWH from and against any claims arising out of the above work.

Debrief on 1st Standing Committee Sunday Update

In the future, it was decided to experiment with a Coffee and Conversation session at 9:30 AM on Sunday morning with a few SC members in attendance as a way of keeping interested congregation members abreast of Standing Committee work. This alternative arrangement was suggested so that the meeting would not take place during Fellowship Hour. Elaine will identify potential dates.

Debrief on 10/14 Special Meeting

Our bylaws (Section 6 [a]) require that any public statement or action taken by the Society must be affirmed by a vote of the members of the congregation. Thus, a Special Meeting was held on Sunday, Oct. 14, to declare support for a "yes" vote on Ballot Question #3 and approve placing signs in favor of that vote in front of the church. While there was unanimous support for this public statement and action, a member shared unease about having such a vote, and it is presumed that others feel similarly.

Reports from Liaisons

- Welcoming and Outreach Team: Lise Olney reported on the signage discussions taking place with this team and what improvements would have the greatest impact on the church's visibility. Lighting the small, round signs at the driveways and lighting the rose window were suggested. Most impactful, it was felt, was to have a banner created professionally with interchangeable wordage that would meet the rigorous zoning codes for additional signage in Wellesley. Betsy suggested using Long Range Planning funds to pay for having such a banner designed and submitted to the Town's approval process. A motion to this effect was made and approved. Lise will follow up with Welcoming and Outreach.
- House and Grounds/Facilities Use: Elaine reported that a change in the fee structure for rental use of the church's facilities is under discussion. It was thought that every organization should pay something, including those like OUT MetroWest that have not been charged in the past. Also, under discussion is the fact that it is the space that is being rented and not our staff who generously facilitate many programs—some of

which are labor intensive (for example, Wellesley Weston Lifetime Learners). Elaine will report further at the next meeting.

- Fundraising: The Rummage Sale, scheduled for March 30, 2019 will be co-chaired by John Cameron and Marc Shechtman. The Stewardship Drive will be chaired by David Barnard, who is considering different models. It will be most helpful to have the database up and running for use in approaching donors in a Stewardship Campaign. Standing Committee will consider the schedule for UUSWH fundraisers and brainstorm about new initiatives at our next meeting.
- Personnel: Rev. Kelly stated she is considering a title of Congregational Life Coordinator for Cyra Coady to correspond with Kim Towlun's title of Religious Education Coordinator. Lise (as Chair of Personnel) recommended that Rev. Kelly and Cyra create a job description together for this position, send it to the Personnel Committee for vetting, and then to the Standing Committee for final approval.

Standing Committee Meeting Schedule

It was decided that the second Monday evening at 6:30 PM was an optimal time for holding Standing Committee meetings this year. The next meeting will be on **Monday, November 12, 2018**. Subsequent meeting dates are Dec. 10, Jan. 14, Feb. 11, Mar. 11, April 8, May 13, and June 10.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Fenstemacher, Clerk