

Summary of the March 2016 Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Julie Robison, UUCR's Treasurer, provided her monthly report. Income is 1.6% over and expenses are 6.5% under budget, compared to where we expected them to be at this point. Our cash income is \$77,520 vs. \$56,477 last year. These figures all point to good fiscal health. **Rev. Rebekah Montgomery** attended the meeting since this was **Rev. Lynn Strauss**'s last meeting before she embarks on her sabbatical, which will run through the end of the fiscal year. Rev. Rebekah will continue to work 25 hours a week during Rev. Lynn's sabbatical.

Karl Irikura briefed us on the latest canvass progress and plans (see the canvass article on page 3 for more information). We appreciate that Karl will be sending individual letters of thanks to all who generously have made their pledge. We are truly grateful for every pledge.

We spent most of the meeting reviewing and commenting on a revised draft Religious Education Safe Congregations Policy. We voiced some concerns and were not ready to approve the final policy. We hope to do so at our April meeting.

Bill Newhouse reported on the progress of the Strategic Plan Start-Up Team. UUCR has retained consultant, Josh Searle-White to assist us in drafting a strategic planning process. (The congregation was briefed on the draft process at the Town Hall Meeting held on April 10.) "A Year of Reflection" was suggested by Josh and whole-heartedly adopted by the team. This reflection is consistent with Rev. Lynn's intention for all of us to be more soulfully and spiritually centered when doing our work and when interacting with one another. There will be three congregation-wide events spanning three hours on Sundays next year. The first event will be held on September 25 and will supersede what would have been our first Town Hall Meeting of the new program year.

We reviewed the actions in the Board's Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) of UUCR's current Strategic Plan. At least one Board member is assigned to be the liaison for each AIP action. We reviewed the current Board assignments and discussed expectations and progress. The entire Board is reading the new, second edition of *Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership* by Dan

Hotchkiss. Board members from the last few years have used the first edition to help us be a policy driven Board. Each Board member identified something new from the book that that we wanted to try to utilize. Several liked the “Open Questions,” inviting dialogue with the congregation and the use of such dialogue as an important means to influence the Board in the future. (The use of an open question was the core of the April 10 Town Hall Meeting.)