

Minutes from Board Retreat, January 25, 2015

Present: Nathan Philips, Mindy Schlossberg, Michael Griffel, Amy Steckel, Marsha Ginsberg, Richard Argosh, Scott Fellman, Jeff Kirtner, Bruce Kreitzberg, Justine Lovinger, Geraldine Moreno-Black, Hap Ponedel, Richard Shugar, Craig Starr, Maram Epstein

Absent: Aura Solomon

The Minutes of the December Board Meeting were approved, 12-0 with 2 abstentions.

Maram's Report on Executive Committee Discussion of Lay Leadership:

While we recognize the need to plan for more robust lay leadership for services and life cycle events, we will wait till the rabbinical transition is over to allow new rabbi input.

Nathan's Report on the NW President Council of the Reconstructionist Movement:

A shabbaton will be held May 2016 in Olympia at Camp Solomon Schecter. Nathan encourages us to consider putting it in our calendars. This is an event open to anyone and it will include "megaservices" and workshops led by rabbis.

Newly-elected President Rabbi Waxman visiting TBI sanctuary this Feb. 19 and she will be speaking on state of the reconstructionist movement.

Parsonage Allowance:

Rabbi Boris for 2015 will receive \$35,000 and Rabbi Yitz \$1,916 dollars

Employment Background Check: The Board discussed background checks for staff and volunteers who work with children. Jeff will review the proposed policy. Scott and Michael will serve on a sub-committee to assist Nina in implementing the policy.

Review of Financial Statements: The financial statements were reviewed. It was noted at there is \$131k in the TBI Now account so we will be able to make another principal payment on the loan. The finance committee will consider moving cash accumulated over the last several years to the reserve account. The Treasurer reported that we are moving in right direction.

Nathan noted that without auction this year we'll do direct fundraising appeal. Nina asked for help with creative ideas for this appeal so it can be effective. Kelly Weinhold' was suggested as a community resource.

The Board consider a request from Rabbi Yitzhak to increase the post retirement payment he will receive from TBI to fund his Medicare supplemental insurance. Mindy made a motion to deny the request which passed 12 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention.

Mindy's Report from Talmud Torah Committee: Visioning process underway by Gretchen and Boris. The committee recognizes a lack of clarity regarding the specific responsibilities assigned to the Talmud Torah Administrator and to the Head of School.

After the rabbinical transition this matter needs to be addressed.

Rabbi Search Report: Nathan asks that Board members attend upcoming Shabbatons. On March 1 there will be a meeting of Search Committee when it will make its recommendation. On March 5 the Board will meet at 7:00 pm to appoint the new Rabbi after Margot makes a presentation. On March 16 there will be a Congregational Meeting where the community will vote to approve the Board appointment.

Craig reported on the RRC Rabbi Partner Policy: The proposal is to reverse existing policy and allow intermarriage for rabbinical candidates. Existing policy reads that the RRC “does not ordinarily admit or graduate as a rabbi a student married to, or in a committed relationship with, a non-Jew.” In practice, “ordinarily” only has allowed those in process of actively converting. Craig provided the pros and cons for us and reiterated how RRC doesn’t want to create undue controversy within congregations. A motion from Richard Shugar to approve the policy change passed 7-3 in favor of the RRC proposal, with 2 abstentions. We agreed, however, that we need more discussion of this topic.

Maram and Justine reported on the Rabbi Yitz and Shonna Retirement Celebration which will be held on Sunday, May 31. This will be modeled on 80th celebration and Queer Chavurah honoring them. The celebration is envisioned to be one hour of program and at least two hours of schmoozing. We need to raise about \$46K by July 1. Maram will chair a committee to raise these funds. Maram and Nathan asked Board members to contribute to this fund. Completing TBI Now and beginning the fund raising for completing the TBI obligation to their Retirement Fund will be coordinated.

Bylaws Revision was begun: When the proposed revisions are completed, the membership will be asked to approve them. These notes are for the use of the by-laws committee.

See p. 10 “h” on Youth Membership: Recommendation to keep it in.

11 “e” and a suggested 30-day notice that meeting will take place to replace 7-day notice. -- No support for this. We will revise to a 10-day notice.

Art. II, Sec. 3 (d): our recommendation to take out congregational approval of removing a board member if member behaving inappropriately. If member resists, then could take before the congregation. We decide to leave bylaws as is, without revision.

Art. II, Sec. 3 g and h (see p.13): non-renewal should be subject to congregation. sub-para. “h” is null. Add “renewal or non renewal” to para. “a”

Art. III, Sec 1 (a), p. 13 on youth members on board: “youth” def. in flux, we need to come back to this again.