

Governing Board Minutes

July 14, 2024

Present: Governing Board: Tim Crist, Katrina Forman, Jesse Hand, Seo Hee Koh, Sally Iracane, Christina Kelly, Vicki Paulson, Catherine Spinella, Jon Thomsen, Carlos Valdes-Dapena; Search Committee members: Jennifer Hand, Bryan Respass, and Mike Spinella. (Seo Hee Koh and Vicki Paulson were also on the Search Committee.)

Tim Crist called the meeting to order at 5:02. He led the board in a devotional.

Tim announced that the Governing Board had approved appointments to several standing committees by email: as follows (Sally Iracane abstained on the PRC appointments):

Human Resources: George Black (co-chair), Jen Hand (co-chair), Sara Olsen

Buildings and Campus Care: Rob Middleton (chair), John Osborne, Suzanne Tuck, Eric Knies, and Faith Wozniak

Nursery School: Walter Swett (chair), Karen Ermler, Christine Brown

Rev. Katrina Forman's Pastoral Relations Committee: Steve Oosting, Rob Iracane, Christine Brown.

The meeting was called for a single agenda, to receive the report from The Search Committee about the candidate for Minister of Pastoral Care and Faith Formation.

Seo Hee Koh presented the report from the Search Committee. The position description was shared. A list of desired core competencies based on congregational input was presented. The candidate pool was discussed: 11 ministerial profiles were received, 4 of whom identified as male and 7 of whom identified as female or non-binary. Four candidates identified as people of color.

Four candidates were interviewed over Zoom; of those, three came in for second interviews for which Katrina Forman was also present. Of those three, two were selected to preach at a neutral pulpit.

The candidate being presented is Meghan Janssen, currently a hospital chaplain in the Bronx. Her profile had been shared with the governing board.

Search Committee members were pleased to report that conversations with Meghan's references were overwhelmingly positive, with peers and supervisors alike praising her interpersonal, listening, theological and writing skills. A discussion of what interests Meghan about our church followed, including a desire to build deeper relationships with a congregation, a commitment to social justice, and an interest in Montclair as a community to raise her young children.

Tim offered a motion to accept the report from the Search Committee with gratitude for their thorough work and careful discernment, and to endorse their recommendation to present the Rev. Meghan Elizabeth Janssen to the Congregation as candidate for Minister of Pastoral Care and Faith Formation. Carlos seconded the motion. The vote by Governing Board members was unanimous.

Tim then offered a second motion to schedule a Congregational meeting after worship on Sunday, August 4 to vote on calling the Rev. Meghan Elizabeth Janssen as Minister of Pastoral Care and Faith Formation at Union Congregational Church, effective September 1(?), 2024. Gerald seconded the motion. All Governing Board members voted in favor.

Tim has drafted a letter to go to the congregation after Jon meets with the HR committee and meets with Meghan Tuesday morning. An electronic brochure will also be sent to the congregation; Seo Hee aims to have it ready on Wednesday, to possibly go out later in the week.

The candidating weekend was discussed. There will be a morning and afternoon reception and lunch on Saturday. There will also be a board retreat on the morning of Saturday, August 3, followed by a governing board lunch with Meghan.

Katrina offered a closing prayer, and Tim motioned to adjourn.

Submitted by Christina Kelly, Secretary

Next meeting: 8/21 at 7 pm. Devotions: Vicki Paulson

