

TEMPLE SINAI BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
January 16, 2019

Present: Lori Berman, Rita Brickman, Naomi Camper, Jill Chenok, Andrew Engel, Larry Freedman, Gary Friend, Nancy Golding, Cathy Goldwyn, Katie Herman, Deborah Lewis, Mica Maltzman, Matthew Pachman, Catherine Ribnick, Elizabeth Rose, Todd Rosentover, Marcie Solomon, Laura Steel, Anita Stoll, Michael Sussman, D. Jean Veta, Regina Ziegler, Rabbi Roos, Rabbi Goldstein, Cantor Croen and Ellen Agler.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Gary Friend at 7:32 p.m.

D'var Torah: Anita Stoll gave the D'var Torah.

Board operations and general business:

- **Board meeting minutes** - the December 2018 Board meeting minutes were approved.
- **Membership reports** - the January 2019 membership report was approved.
- **The financial report** was reviewed by Deborah Lewis. At present, the Annual Fund is on track to be within budget. Member commitment income is now at 87% of budget. Additionally, there was discussion of the forecasted revenue for the Nursery School.

Updates and discussion:

- **Development Report** – the Development Report was outlined in an email from Seth Speyer, including the following highlights: (1) so far, we have generated \$162,256 towards our goal of \$225,000 in gifts to the Annual Fund, which includes Capital Campaign pledges; (2) we continue to enhance awareness of the Rimonim Legacy Gift Society to build engagement in congregants through long term charitable estate planning and a pipeline of future philanthropic investment in the Temple, and the Committee met with the Clergy during the first week of January to lay plans for an April 12th Rimonim themed Shabbat; (3) Board members are encouraged to consider ways they might include Temple Sinai in their charitable estate plans and are invited to speak with Ellen Agler or Noah Benjamin to explore opportunities, which can be as simple as naming the Temple as a partial beneficiary of a retirement account or existing life insurance plan; and (4) personal solicitations are continuing. Notably, as of December 31, 2018, for the first time since we have been comprehensively tracking donations above and beyond membership commitments, contributed revenue to the Temple exceeded \$1 million (\$1,071,826) across all areas of giving.
- **Capital Campaign And Strategic Planning** – Naomi Camper, Andrew Engel and Gary Friend gave an update regarding the Capital Campaign and, as of the present, we have received a total of over \$6 million in pledges with more than 100 family units participating. Having exceeded the 75% stated goal,

the campaign is on track for a public launch in late February 2019, which could potentially include a series of activities, mass mailings, larger events and programming during currently scheduled events. It is anticipated that the Launch Event Committee will be making its recommendations to the Board, including the role for Board members in the public launch phase. Refinements continue with the Conceptual Design, to a point where the project is being priced out. The Strategic Planning Committee is continuing its review of priorities and the pacing of the work to be done on the renovation/expansion so that it best aligns with the Temple's long-term strategic plan and budget capacity. The clergy have now been trained to serve as Capital Campaign emissaries.

- **Women's March Update** – Rabbi Goldstein provided an update on the Women's March. She discussed the background of the process involved in navigating the complicated and important relationships with other communities, as well as the anticipated coordinated travel and activities planned for the march.
- **Next Refugee Support Opportunity** – The Volunteer/Leadership Team (Glenn Engelmann, Chair of the Social Action Committee, Rabbi Roos, Elizabeth Hoffman, Andrea Dettelbach, Catherine Ribnick, Nancy Liebermann, and Joe Sternlieb) unanimously recommended that Temple Sinai sponsor a 26-year old Catholic man from the Congo who had been arrested, detained and tortured for his religious identity. The Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition (CAIR) asked us to serve as sponsor for this individual in order to facilitate his release from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody in the Anne Arundel County Jail while he pursues his request for asylum. The Team has secured a furnished apartment owned by two Temple members who are offering the housing for this purpose rent free for several months with the possibility of extending as needed. The Board approved a motion to authorize Rabbi Roos to execute, on behalf of Temple Sinai, an Affidavit of Support of this sponsorship with financial expenditures by the Temple not to exceed \$5,000.
- **Upcoming Topics** – Gary Friend gave an update regarding upcoming Board meeting topics, which will likely include: (1) a proposed gift acceptance policy; (2) the report from the Strategic Planning Committee; and (3) presentations from the Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ) and the Men of Reform Judaism (MRJ).

Reports:

- **President's report** – All items covered during the Board meeting. No separate report.
- **Senior Rabbi's report** – The Senior Rabbi's Report was submitted orally. Rabbi Roos discussed that: (1) Temple Sinai is hosting the Association of Reform Jewish Educators (ARJE) clergy members for dinner and evening learning sessions tonight as they are in town for their national conference to discuss best practices in education, an event that showcases Temple Sinai's leadership in this area; (2) he wanted to extend thanks to Tracy Kamen, Tim Nurvala and the team at CCS Fundraising, the fundraising consultants who have been with us for over a year helping us plan, execute and steward our capital and programming campaign, and he also wanted to acknowledge the important contributions of CSS, our co-chairs and volunteer leaders have been instrumental in making the Capital Campaign so successful; (3) the engagement of CCS Fundraising will be ending this month; (4) there are resources available for persons impacted by the federal government shutdown, with links provided in the

newsletter, and Rabbi Roos has committed \$5,000 from his discretionary fund on behalf of the Temple to support a special interest-free loan program with the Hebrew Free Loan Association of Washington, with a loan to the organization which is expected to be returned/re-paid in a few months after the shutdown ends; (5) there have been a number of added programs, including challah making, and an upcoming Martin Luther King Lunch & Learn, among others; (6) the refugee support team of Temple volunteers has been helping The Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church that has taken a woman into residence for sanctuary and 10 Temple members participated in recent trainings to provide support for that effort and to give us first hand resources for our own practices should we ever be called upon to house a person here in sanctuary as part of our work through the Lutheran Senior Services Good Neighbor program; (7) the Multi-Racial Sinai Task Force Training Program held a training with Yavilah McCoy on January 6, 2019, in furtherance of the Temple's commitment to be a welcoming community and Rabbi Goldstein, Deitra Reiser and Cathy Goldwyn were lead organizers; (8) he wanted to extend congratulations to several members of our staff and congregation who are entering or are attending rabbinical school; (9) the Religious School is having a family retreat at the Great Wolf Lodge, to be attended by 75 people, including Rabbi Rosenwasser and Cantor-Educator Robins; and (10) the Temple will be having a special Shabbat Shira on January 18, 2019, with music to be provided by pianist and vocalist, Daryl Davis and his band. Services will begin at 7:30pm and will be followed by a festive oneg.

- **Executive Director's report** – as submitted.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Laura Steel, Assistant Secretary