

**WSUU Congregational Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2015**

At 12:03 p.m. Viveca Monahan, president of the board of trustees, called the meeting to order and ascertained that a quorum of 80 members was present.

Rev. Beatrice Hitchcock led the chalice lighting with a reading of "Be the Change" from the book This Sacred Place.

1. Viveca explained the board called this meeting in response to a large number of members who requested that Westside UU take action to support the Black Lives Matter movement. Also in response to the 2015 UUA General Assembly's Action of Immediate Witness which calls on all UU congregations "to take initiative in collaboration with local and national organizations fighting for racial justice against the harsh racist practices to which many black people are exposed."

From the Black Lives Matter website: Black Lives Matter is a movement working for a world where Black lives are no longer systematically and intentionally targeted for demise..." "When we say Black Lives Matter we are broadening the conversation around state violence to include all of the ways in which Black people are intentionally left powerless at the hands of the state We are talking about the ways in which Black lives are deprived of our most basic human rights and dignity."

Viveca went on to say the purpose of this meeting is to put to a vote a decision to allow Westside UU Congregation to support the Black Lives Matter movement by placing a banner on our building.

Following an explanation of procedural guidelines for the day, Viveca asked for a motion from the floor.

2. Joe Rettenmaier moved that we hang a banner on our building in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. Peggy Abby seconded the motion.

Discussion of the motion included a number of question as:

- a) what will the banner look like? b) what is the commitment we are making along with the banner? c) is there any chance to include a holder for information slips with the banner? d) are we putting up a banner or will we do more of substance along with it? e) how will we pay for it? f) how long will we have the banner up on the building? g) should we include language that we maintain the banner regardless of potential damage?

3. Soph Davenberry moved an amendment, seconded by Ursula Ham.

4. After some discussion, April Kristjansson moved the following amendment to replace and simplify Soph's amendment with a second by Paula vanHaagen.

Add to Joe's motion, " and also to represent congregational commitment to the Black Lives Matter movement."

This makes the motion: "We, Westside UU Congregation, hang a banner on our building in support of the Black Lives Matter movement and also to represent congregational commitment to the Black Lives Matter movement.

The motion to amend passed by a large majority.

5. Following further discussion about what our commitment, adding a picture of the banner to our website with link to information about how we got to this vote and what it means to us and how we might respond to potential backlash, Linda Tally moved the question with a second by Arline Borella.

It passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.