

April 13, 2011

Minutes – First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit

Board of Trustees

Liberate truth, Radiate kindness, and Love courageously

Organizing Principle: First Unitarian Universalist Church is an urban center for spiritual renewal and social justice in Detroit.

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held in Memorial Hall on April 13, 2011. President Marilyn Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:15pm.

Members in Attendance: Marilyn Mitchell, David Lingholm, Kathleen Jacobs Johnson, Bill McKnight, Robert Johnson, Sally Borden, Dessa Cosma, Rev. Bill Neely. **Excused:** Julie Brock, Dan Wiest, Linda Darga. **Guests:** Sandra Thottakath, Yvanne Hamm.

I. Minister's Report – The Big Questions, Ministerial Compensation, etc. (Attached).

A. Congregational Meeting May 22nd – move potluck to this week.

II. Consent Agenda

A. Officer Reports:

1. Kathleen Jacobs Johnson, Secretary, Minutes of March 9, 2011 Meeting. (Attached) Motion to approve the minutes made by Robert, seconded by David. Minutes were approved as presented.

2. David Lingholm, Treasurer's Report, (Attached).

- a. DESC moved to June meeting for new and old board to attend.
- b. Answers to reoccurring RFP questions on total expenses (Attached)
- c. Retirement for Rev. Neely need to be paid – will do in one lump sum.
 - i. Taxes and payment amounts came out spot on for 2010.
- d. 2nd floor all rented out.
 - i. Still need keys from Grow with Moe – no word, no money for March since being kicked out of church.
 - ii. receiving high rent from Sugar Law and EMEAC – now around \$40,000/year in rent, which is on par with the rent received during Rev. Larry Hutchinson's time in the late 1990's
 - iii. even with higher rent, not sustainable because building still needs major upgrades.
 - iv. not sustainable getting so much from the trust infusion.

B. Canvassing, Marilyn and Sally (on Julie's behalf) –

1. Jenn and Julie finishing up Canvas – we have 49 pledges totaling \$60,000 – \$65,000.

- a. Putting together a list of members and eliminating from the pledge list one-time donors.
- b. 2011-2012 Canvass begins May 1st – put in order of service announcements.

III. Old Business

A. Search Committee, Sally - application submitted and received.

1. Friday, April 15th will have a list of candidates to review.
2. Application submitted 5 days earlier than last time.

B. 95th Anniversary Update, Kathleen – Things are all set for Sunday the 17th.

1. A few little snags in the plan due to the memorial service of David Robinson on Saturday and health issues with Lee Thume.
 2. Ads placed in the Monitor and mentions in a few other papers.
 3. Lots of pictures.
 4. Have a letter from Rev. Lisa Presley – Marilyn will be Trustee and can read letter.
- C. Proposed Bylaw Amendment, Marilyn and Bill –
1. Bill sent out Bylaw proposal regarding the Endowment (Attached) – sent late today.
 - a. Read and discuss over email.
 2. Right-sizing the Board? – Nomination Committee having trouble finding candidates to fill all of the Trustee slots.
 - a. Perhaps with a settled minister who can act as CEO, the board could assist and back off some of the duties.
- D. Annual Report needs to be done – Budget may not be ready for meeting.
- E. RFP Reviews, Dessa – 6 proposals received: 2 gift option; 4 lease option, none to purchase.
1. Committee to review the proposals and meet May 3rd to come up with top 1-2 candidates to recommend to the board.
 2. Will invite the top candidates to come to May Board meeting for brief interview as done with TechTown.
 3. TechTown still trying to secure funding.
 4. June 12th Congregational meeting to vote for future of building.
 - a. Best to give 1 option to Congregation as “Board approved”
 - b. May 25th will be a special Board meeting to vote for the board approved RFP/MOU option to present to the congregation.

IV. New Business

- A. Grass Cutting, Marilyn – Joe can’t continue cutting the lawn
 1. Ask someone from the congregation to do this first – depending on our vote, we will not have to care for the building much longer
 2. Church owns a lawnmower at the church.
- B. Trustee Schedule through June, Marilyn – Done.
- C. Bill’s last Sunday and Farewell Party, Marilyn – June 26th will be last Sunday.
 1. Kathleen will as Anniversary planning committee if they will take on planning the farewell party.
- D. Newsletter, Robert – Will have ready for Easter.

Adjournment 8:50pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Jacobs Johnson, Board Secretary

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 11th, 2011 7:00pm Memorial Hall

Attachments:

1. Agenda for April 13, 2011 Board of Trustees Meeting
2. Minister’s Report
3. Minutes: March 9, 2011
4. Endowment Bylaw Revision (Bill)