

MINUTES
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit
November 9, 2011

Organizing Principle: First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit 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 November 9, 2011. President Sally Borden called the meeting to order at 7:11pm. The following was read: *"We covenant to work together in honesty, kindness and respect for each other as we carry out our elected responsibilities to do the business of this church to the best of our abilities. We are a religious community. Let us move forward in love."*

Attendance: Rev. Roger Mohr, Sally Borden (President), Robert Johnson (Vice-President), Marilyn Mitchell (Past President), Dan Wiest (Treasurer), Kathe Stevens (Secretary), Sandra Thottakath. Absent, Sean McAde. There was a quorum.

Minister's Opening Remarks: Rev. Mohr opened the meeting with a meditation.

Secretary's Report – Kathe Stevens: The minutes from the October 12, 2011 meeting were approved and accepted as presented.

Discussion of EMEAC Merger – Rev. Dr. Lisa Presley: Sally Borden mailed a letter to the congregation explaining details to date on the merger. The letter contained an invitation to call or email Sally for a personal discussion.

Early communications between First Church and EMEAC which were done via email were unsatisfactory, nuances were lost. Face-to-face communications have gone much better.

Rev. Dr. Lisa Presley suggested that a selection process is needed for the EMEAC board representative, including a job description, term limits and method of choosing. She also insisted on a process for mediation and arbitration, as a protection to both parties. Rev. Dr. Presley also suggested obtaining outside legal counsel before the process is complete; someone who doesn't have vested interest. The process must have an arms-length view which secures the best future for all parties.

Treasurer's Report – Dan Wiest: The figure of \$25,341.02 on the profit and loss statement includes a \$21,000 bequest to the trust from the estate of former church member Helga Herz.

EMEAC will be asked to begin paying First Church's insurance policy. EMEAC has already taken over some vendor payments and part of the office administrator's salary.

Worship Report – Sean McAde: No report in Sean McAde's absence.

Building and Grounds – Dan Wiest: The contact information for the fire alarm is being handed over to EMEAC as part of the transition.

Membership and Canvass – Marilyn Mitchell. Marilyn summarized her written report. Membership: an anonymous benefactor has given a donation to fund coffee hour through June. Canvass: Marilyn has heard back from six of the 20 congregants who were sent letters, she will now phone those who haven't responded. Pledging is going well and she expected to wrap up by Thanksgiving.

EMEAC Transition Task Force – Dan Wiest: EMEAC's treasurer thought EMEAC was financing the big boiler, taking into account \$740 for another 19 months combined. Pursuant to an email received from EMEAC, they are willing to pick up a little more than half.

Access to both the building calendar and the church calendar will be given to both First Church and EMEAC.

EMEAC does not want to do election polling. Jenn Hurtt will notify the City of Detroit when she returns to work.

EMEAC has been apprised about Noel Night, and other upcoming events.

Sally reported that a "First Addendum" was signed at the Transition Task Force meeting. A clause was added to revisit the agreement after 12 months and to assess the sanctuary every five years.

Rev. Dr. Presley suggested a celebration to honor the transition. A decision should be made on flow of information, with a spokesperson for First Church selected.

Sally thanked Rev. Dr. Presley for her comments and observations.

Prentis Parking Lot – Sally Borden: After discussion, Marilyn Mitchell moved, seconded by Robert Johnson, to advise EMEAC that First Church does not intend to sell the Prentis Parking lot for at least 18 months and that EMEAC will have first choice to buy at fair market value. Passed unanimously.

There was further consensus that until the lot is sold, we should investigate marketing the parking lot. The number of parking spaces available needs to be discerned; only six are being rented.

Church Offices – Rev. Mohr: He is going to ask EMEAC if First Church may keep a part of the front office, obviate the need for phone lines, wireless, etc.

The decision on an office for the settled minister is not a priority for this year. There was a discussion led by Robert Johnson about the possibility of assigning the church phone number to Google voice.

Endowment Fund Committee – Sally Borden: Janice Berry is still able to access the Merrill Lynch account. An endowment fund was established at the annual meeting by vote of the congregation, which would take the place of the Memorial Fund. An endowment fund committee consisting of three members with financial and business experience needs to be set up by the next board meeting. Sally asked if suggestions of congregants to serve could be provided by the next board meeting.

Clearing Out Pullman Hall – Sally Borden: EMEAC agreed that we could use post-its to tag items. Robert Johnson will set up a Doodle invitation to tag items.

Other Business – Sally Borden: First Church received a CD of Helga Herz' memorial service, newspaper articles, and a letter from Helga's niece along with the \$21,000 bequest. Kathe Stevens will send a thank you letter. Dan Wiest will ensure that the accounting shows the funds went to the trust so there is no confusion that the funds are available as cash.

Communications Subcommittee – Robert Johnson. Robert would like to move forward to set up a PayPal account for donations and for payment for parking lot slots. The cost is 2% of each transaction. Robert will circulate details. Approved by consensus. Dan Wiest will provide more information.

Purchase of Router – Robert Johnson. An \$80 router should be purchased to supply Wi-Fi to the sanctuary. Approved by consensus.

Sound system enhancement – Robert Johnson. Linda Darga suggested EQUUAL Access as a cost effective method of getting sound to the hearing impaired more efficiently than currently.

Adjournment: Sally thanked the board for its attendance and participation. The meeting adjourned at 8:57pm.