

MINUTES

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit:

An urban center for spiritual renewal and social justice in Detroit

December 14, 2011

CALL TO ORDER: A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held in Memorial Hall on December 14, 2011. President Sally Borden called the meeting to order at 7:19 PM. The board pledged: *"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."*

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

MINISTER'S OPENING REMARKS: Rev. Mohr opened the meeting with an invocation.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Kathe Stevens: After review, Marilyn Mitchell moved, seconded by Sean McAde, to approve the minutes from the November 9, 2011 meeting as presented; passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Dan Wiest:

- Church Mutual agent Bob Pringle advises that moveable objects must be itemized for insurance purposes.
- Sugar Law is buying the copier.
- Dan will investigate to see if DTE will convert a \$7,000 credit with DTE to a cash payment.
- A proposed budget of \$148,820 for fiscal year July 2011 – June 2012 was distributed, reviewed and approved; it will be presented for congregational approval on January 29, 2012.
- Dan reviewed the November 2011 Profit and Loss statement; there was \$11,000 in the checking account as of December 11.

A 30-day notice is required for the January 29 congregational meeting; the first notice will be read on Sunday, December 18, 2011.

OTHER REPORTS:

Worship – Sean McAde: There will be a Christmas Eve service but no Christmas Day service. Worship committee meetings are now the fourth Wednesday of each month; there is no meeting scheduled for December. Sandra Thottakath will call Rae Haddon, Rebecca Caterina.

Building and Grounds – Dan Wiest: No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Canvass – Marilyn Mitchell. \$67,555 has been pledged; 13 pledging units decreased their pledges, 18 increased. Marilyn will provide a report to the congregation on January 29.

EMEAC Transition Task Force – Dan Wiest: An attorney referred by Bill McKnight will draft a boiler plate arbitration process. EMEAC’s attorney will draft the deed to transfer the property; attorney Ken Clarkson, referred by Marilyn Mitchell, will review it.

Church Offices – Rev. Mohr: Sean McAde will provide an estimate for repairs to the tiles, toilet and sink in the minister’s office.

Cleaning Pullman Hall – Sally Borden: Everything has been removed from Pullman Hall with the exception of the contents of one closet. Sally suggested a First Church/EMEAC clean-up day.

Signage – Sally Borden: There was lengthy discussion about EMEAC’s request for control/ownership of the lighted sign at the corner of Cass and Forest. Dan Wiest will present the board consensus at the next EMEAC Transition Task Force meeting.

Prentis Parking Lot – Sally Borden: EMEAC Executive Director Diana Copeland has requested a definite plan for purchase of the Prentis parking lot before the deed is transferred. Sally suggested a written agreement for EMEAC’s use of the parking lot without charge while EMEAC is in the building and paying the bills. Marilyn will attempt to find an appraiser for the lot.

Church Brochure – Marilyn Mitchell: The black-and-white brochure will suffice until reasonable bids are obtained for color copies.

NEW BUSINESS:

Selection process for EMEAC board representative – Sally Borden: After discussion about the role of the First Church representative to the EMEAC board, Kathe Stevens agreed to draft process and policies to circulate to the board for discussion at the January 11 board meeting.

Endowment Fund Committee Nominations – Sally Borden: Ivan Cotman was recommended as a member of the Endowment Fund Committee but discussion was tabled due to a proposed change in the by-laws to reduce the endowment committee to two members. The proposed change will be presented for approval at the January 29 congregational meeting.

Trophy Case and Treasure – Marilyn Mitchell: Marilyn suggested installing a trophy case on the west wall of the sanctuary for historical items now in a locked room in the Church House basement. The discussion was tabled until receipt of 60 days’ notice for the items to be moved.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Program Committee – Sally Borden: As we close the transaction on the buildings, our focus must turn to programs. The discussion will be continued at the January 11 meeting.

Sound in the Sanctuary – Sally Borden: Robert Johnson will investigate alternatives, including the EQUAAL system suggested by Linda Darga previously.

Coffee Hour – Sally Borden: After discussion, the consensus of the board was that there was no merit to bringing Leonard Swint back to handle coffee hour duties.

ADJOURNMENT: Sally expressed her appreciation for the board’s attention and focus. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathe Stevens, Secretary