

MINUTES
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
First Unitarian-Universalist Church
January 11, 2012

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 January 11, 2012. President Sally Borden called the meeting to order at 7:16pm and the board read aloud together: "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, Sean McAde and Mary Lou Malone (guest). There was a quorum.

Minister's Opening Remarks: Rev. Mohr opened the meeting by invoking spirit and community.

Secretary's Report – Kathe Stevens: It was moved by Marilyn Mitchell, seconded by Dan Wiest, to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2011 meeting as presented; passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Dan Wiest: Dan presented the profit and loss statement for December 2011 and the balance sheet as of December 31, 2011. The books are in the black. Kathe Stevens and Sandra Thottakath volunteered to do an inventory of the contents of the sanctuary in order to value them for renter's insurance. It was moved by Marilyn Mitchell, seconded by Kathe Stevens to accept the financials as presented; passed unanimously. The approved budget will be presented at the congregational meeting on January 29.

Search Committee Report – Mary Lou Malone: The congregational record is finished. As soon as the record has been approved by Nana Kratochvil, Michigan's Ministerial Settlement Representative, the record will be opened to ministers who are searching. The search committee is meeting on Saturday, January 14 to finish the packet. A search committee member will be present to report at the February 8 board meeting.

Worship Report – Sean McAde: Sean did not have a report. Robert Johnson reported that recent attendance has gone down although 63 of 70 members were at church the past Sunday.

Building and Grounds – Dan Wiest/Robert Johnson: Currently three routers provide wi-fi, one upstairs in the elevator closet, one in McColleston Hall, and one in the old church office. To provide wi-fi to the new church office, the cable could be moved from the old church office with a repeater in Memorial Hall. The consensus was that the only disadvantage to keep First Church wi-fi in the whole building is the network cost, \$80-90 to purchase a new router and the cost to have AT&T move the router. Robert Johnson will ask EMEAC if they wish to continue to use First Church wi-fi or obtain their own.

Canvass/Membership – Marilyn Mitchell: We are just over \$70,000 in pledges. Sally will contact Pat Kneil, Jerry Gochnour, Rhonda Rogers, and Sherry Wells regarding their pledges.

Orientation – Marilyn Mitchell: The first of two new orientation sessions will be scheduled for the first Sunday in February from 12:30pm to 1:30pm. Rev. Mohr will present on UU history. The second session will be on congregational history given by a long term member, not yet identified.

Old Business

EMEAC Transition Task Force – Dan Wiest: The task force has not met for a few weeks. Dessa Cosma is leading the transition team and is also the First Church board representative.

Signage – Sally Borden: Marilyn has provided the legal description to attorney Ken Clarkson to prepare easements for the electric sign. The Historic Commission must approve any expansion of the electric sign.

Prentis Parking Lot – Sally Borden: Local real estate developer Joel Landy believes the 67 x 190 parking lot may be worth between \$30 to \$40 per square foot. The City valuation is \$12,000 so the doubled value is \$24,000. Marilyn, Kathe and Robert will each try to find an appraiser for the lot. EMEAC is threatening to pull out of the transaction if it does not get a definitive and affirmative answer on the sale of the parking lot. Dan Wiest will ask his contact to stay on standby to plow snow from the parking lot until the EMEAC transition task force makes a decision on plowing.

Church/Minister’s Offices – Rev. Mohr: Sean McAde will paint and clean the offices.

Selection Process for EMEAC Board Representative – Sally Borden: A draft process was distributed; Sally asked for feedback from the board. Tabled until the February meeting.

New Business

Program Committee – Sally Borden: An inaugural program committee meeting will be held on January 22 to provide feedback from members and visitors programs they wish to see.

Media Plans – Sally Borden: Toni Tront is donating \$100 for UUA pamphlets. Marilyn Mitchell will order “What We Believe.” Rev. Mohr will reconvene the committee to discuss social media.

Date for Fundraiser/Play (March or April) – Sally Borden: Tabled.

Status of Draft Arbitration Process – Sally Borden: The attorney referred by Bill McKnight is drafted a proposed arbitration process.

Status of Transfer Deed Transaction/Attorney Review – Sally Borden: No update, no report.

Other Business

Joe Brimmer – Dan Wiest: Former custodian Joe Brimmer asked if he was eligible to receive unemployment benefits. Dan checked with the state, the church is not obligated and the board felt, regrettably, that the church budget would not allow any more than the \$500 already given to Joe for his 16 years service.

Rev. Mohr’s Six-Month Evaluation – All: Rev Mohr explained that he is entering the process of becoming a credentialed interim, requiring documentation on his current interim ministry. The board gave some feedback to Rev. Mohr and he then excused himself so the board could continue its evaluation. Kathe Stevens agreed to prepare a draft evaluation and fill out the on-line form.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathe Stevens, Governing Board Secretary