

## MINUTES

### Meeting of the Board of Trustees First Unitarian Universalist Church September 12, 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 on October 10, 2012. President Sally Borden called the meeting to order at 7:12pm 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."

Present were Rev. Roger Mohr, Sally Borden (President), Marilyn Mitchell (Past President), Kathe Stevens (Secretary), Dan Wiest (Treasurer), Sandra Thottakath, Sean McAde, Danny Rebb. Cynthia Zurschmiede (Vice-President) was absent. There was a quorum.

Rev. Mohr opened the meeting by invoking the spirit of community.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** *It was moved by Kathe Stevens, seconded by Marilyn Mitchell, to approve the minutes from the September 12, 2012 meeting as presented; passed unanimously.*

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Dan Wiest presented and summarized *First UU Treasurer's Report for September 2012, First UU Profit and Loss September 2012 and First UU Balance Sheet as of September 30, 2012.*

- Copying costs are over budget; Rev. Mohr will ask Tamara Halliburton to assess copying needs.
- Thanks to keen auditing by King & King Accounting the IRS debt is down from \$80,000 to \$250 and the IRS will remove the lien.
- EMEAC has caught up on its monthly payments but insurance is outstanding.

*It was moved by Marilyn Mitchell, seconded by Kathe Stevens, to approve the financials as presented; passed unanimously.*

**COMMITTEE/PROGRAM REPORTS:** *It was moved by Marilyn Mitchell, seconded by Kathe Stevens, to approve the written report of the Activities Coordinator as presented; passed unanimously.*

- **Buildings & Grounds – Dan Wiest.**
  - The parking lot is in bad shape, getting full every night from students, and full of trash on Sunday. Sean McAde spoke with Kim Sherobi to resolve.
  - Tim Bailey repaired the ramp leading to McColleston Hall.
- **Communications Committee – Rev. Mohr.** Tim Bailey found an obscure switch so we now have speakers in the sanctuary.
- **EMEAC Task Force – Dan Wiest.**
  - Dan proposed First Church and EMEAC share the cost of repairing the dishwasher in the kitchen. EMEAC will get a quote.
  - First Church has the sanctuary from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. every Sunday but will have to coordinate if we want to use Memorial and/or McColleston halls.
  - An insurance payment of \$10,000 will be made by EMEAC.

- Bill McKnight is our new EMEAC board representative; Dessa Cosma is no longer on the EMEAC board.
- **Nits & Gnats – Sally Borden.** Joan Smykowski has suggested we donate First Church archives to the University of Michigan. Sally is meeting with an archive specialist referred by Joan.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

***MUUSJN Conference Call – Danny Rebb.*** Danny will do a bullet point summary, and advise of actionable items on the congregation's part via the church newsletter.

***Unitarian Universalist Service Committee –Sally Borden.*** Colleen Dolan-Greene has agreed to take on UUSC responsibilities.

***Retreat Goals – Rev. Mohr.*** The recommended goals are based on the board and worship committee retreats. Rev. Mohr summarized each goal. Dan Secrest has agreed that the church website needs to be overhauled; an intern from Baker College will start that project in January. The intern will be supervised by Office Administrator Tamara Halliburton, who has a background in web design.

***Use of audio visual in the sanctuary – Sally Borden.*** It was agreed that the congregation would benefit by easing into the use of AV in the sanctuary, perhaps starting with a newsletter article and involving the Worship Committee. The Com/Com group should drive the use of AV by preparing guidelines.

***By-Laws – Rev. Mohr.*** Sean McAde, Marilyn Mitchell and Rev. Mohr agreed to meet as a sub-committee to re-write the by-laws.

***Introduction of guests during services – Danny Rebb.*** Danny will bring up this issue with the Worship Committee at its next meeting.

***Magazine advertising – Rev. Mohr.*** The publisher of *Natural Awakenings*, with a distribution of 30,000 in Wayne County, has asked Rev. Mohr to produce a monthly article; the first will appear November 1, 2012. Rev. Mohr intends to take out a 1/3 page advertisement for his consulting business in conjunction with the article. The consulting business is executive level life coaching, done under the guidance of UU principles and practices. ***It was moved by Marilyn Mitchell, seconded by Kathe Stevens, to accept Rev. Mohr's offer to include First Church in promotional marketing on the Natural Awakenings website, including a reference to First Church's website and use of a short bio mentioning his association with First Church; passed unanimously.***

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 8:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathe Stevens, Governing Board Secretary