

MINUTES
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
First Unitarian Universalist Church
November 14, 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 November 14, 2012. President Sally Borden called the meeting to order at 7pm 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), Cynthia Zurschmiede (Vice-President), Kathe Stevens (Secretary), Dan Wiest (Treasurer), Sandra Thottakath, Danny Rebb. Excused were Marilyn Mitchell (Past President) and Sean McAde. There was a quorum.

Rev. Mohr opened the meeting by invoking the spirit of community, thankfulness for the work being done in the church, and the opportunity to work together.

This led to a discussion on what form Rev. Mohr's opening remarks might take. It was suggested that information on external activities and internal activities could be shared in a simple, bullet-point written report. The report might include information on Office Administrator Tamara Halliburton, who is a valued part of the church organization, so the board would like to be apprised of how she is doing.

Another suggestion was a newsletter column which highlights Rev. Mohr's external activities and church activities, which overlap.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: *It was moved by Kathe Stevens, seconded by Danny Rebb, to approve the minutes from the October 10, 2012 meeting as presented; passed unanimously.*

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dan Wiest presented and summarized *First UU Profit and Loss September 2012* and *First UU Balance Sheet as of October 31, 2012*.

- Tim Bailey is researching used coffee equipment. The cost of any upgrade would be shared with People's Kitchen.
- Payment arrangements need to be made for Rev. Mohr's pension.
- Dan Wiest will send \$50 or \$100 to the Heartland District and the UUA as a partial contribution for 2012.

It was moved by Kathe Stevens, seconded by Cynthia Zurschmiede, to approve the financials as presented; passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE/PROGRAM REPORTS: *It was moved by Kathe Stevens, seconded by Cynthia Zurschmiede, to approve the written reports of the Activities Coordinator, Canvass/Membership and PR/Development as presented; passed unanimously.*

A discussion on holes in the Prentis parking lot and the question of whether to fix them, led to a discussion on the board's obligation to present the option of selling the parking lot to the congregation for a vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Report of Sub-Committee on By-Laws – Rev. Mohr. Rev. Mohr, Marilyn Mitchell and Sean McAde met. The subcommittee analyzed the by-laws in relation to the constitution. All officers are term-limited to two 1-year terms. The subcommittee felt the secretary and the treasurer should not be term limited because it limited institutional knowledge. A written report will be prepared for the December meeting. It was agreed the by-laws need to be revised; Sean and Marilyn will be asked if they will work to revise the by-laws. Sally is also willing to serve.

Report on Media, Ministries, Projects, Plans – Rev. Mohr. Rev. Mohr noted that a written report was previously distributed. He is investigating how social media will work for promoting the church. An intern is not yet available to do the website update; he will check again in the spring. Rev. Mohr is working on the flow of communications concerning programs and events; he'd like to see a church blog added and find ways to generate traffic to our web page and events more seamlessly. There are now 120 people on the church's Facebook page, it's getting to be one of our biggest network social media places.

Appointing Board Member – Sally Borden: Sally asked Marsha Bruhn to join the church board, at same time congratulating her on the recent Young Adults gathering. Marsha agreed to send names and contact data to Tamara. Sally will follow up with Marsha, who has not yet responded.

New Church Directory – Sally Borden: Deferred to December meeting.

Organ Fundraiser – Kathe Stevens. Kathe, Todd Ballou and Kimberly Kleinhans are in the very early planning stage for a fundraiser for the organ. Tentative dates are either Saturday, April 6 in the evening or Sunday, April 7 in the afternoon.

NEW BUSINESS:

Peter Morales Nomination for Reelection for UUA President – Sally Borden: A request to nominate UUA President Peter Morales was received from the "Morales for President" campaign. It was agreed that the board does not have enough information and is not active enough in denominational affairs to make a decision. Rev. Mohr will research the nomination process.

Data Service for "The World" – Sally Borden: New members must be added to an online data service in order to get their subscription to *The World*. Rev. Mohr will check to see if Tamara is able to take on this task; it might also be beneficial, for cost and ecological reasons, to remove old members. Once details are available a newsletter article will be written in order to advise the congregation.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathe Stevens, Governing Board Secretary