

MINUTES
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
First Unitarian Universalist Church
March 13, 2013

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 March 13, 2013. President Sally Borden called the meeting to order at 7:07pm and the Board and guests 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 Sally Borden (President), Marilyn Mitchell (Past President), Cynthia Zurschmiede (Vice-President), Kathe Stevens (Secretary), Marsha Bruhn, Sean McAde, Danny Rebb, Sandra Thottakath, and guest Matt Friedrichs. Dan Wiest (Treasurer) was excused. There was a quorum.

INVOCATION AND MINISTER'S REPORT: Rev. Mohr opened the meeting with an invocation on community and congregational nourishment. He then turned to business, providing a letter from the Heartland District inquiring about the status of dues owed by First Church. Kathe Stevens will send an email to Dan Wiest requesting that Dan write a check to Heartland, and the Unitarian Universalist Association, for partial payment of the dues owed to both organizations. Rev. Mohr also reported that Keith Kron, UUA Director of Transitions, has confirmed approval of a four-year Developmental Ministry.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The minutes of the previous meeting having been distributed and reviewed, it was *moved by Marilyn Mitchell, seconded by Marsha Bruhn, to approve the minutes from the February 13, 2013 meeting as presented; passed unanimously.*

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Board reviewed *First UU Profit and Loss Statement* for February 2013 and Dan Wiest's written report as provided by Dan and distributed by the Secretary. In Dan's absence, discussion was deferred.

COMMITTEE/PROGRAM REPORTS: Written reports were provided by Marilyn Mitchell (*Canvass/Membership*) and Kathe Stevens (*PR/Development*).

OLD BUSINESS

Developmental Ministry - Sally Borden: To align with the four-year developmental ministry approved by the UUA, Sally consolidated the five goals approved at the last meeting into four and communicated them to Rev. Kron: 1) continued steady growth and recruitment of new members; 2) continued organizational restructuring; 3) improved communications and 4) leadership development. The goals will be reviewed at a leadership retreat similar to the one held in 2012. It was the consensus of the Board to hold another leadership retreat in the summer.

Church Directory - Marilyn Mitchell. Deferred, Marilyn is awaiting information from Tamara Halliburton regarding software.

Rev. Mohr's 401k Contributions - Dan Wiest: In Dan Wiest's absence it was agreed that Kathe will send an email to the Church Trust via Bill McKnight to request that the Church Trust provide \$6,351.24 as approved at the January 9 meeting.

Report of Sub-Committee on By-Laws - Marilyn Mitchell: Marilyn briefly described the subcommittee's suggestions about the composition of the Board; proposed draft bylaws are still a work in progress but will be completed in time for the annual meeting on May 19.

Archives – Sally Borden: A printout of an email from Leonard Coombs of the University of Michigan’s Bentley Historical Library was provided to the Board. The email explained the difference between donated and loaned archives. Donated archives are properly preserved because there is funding for preservation, but funding is not available for loaned archives so conservation work is limited. Over a period of decades this could make a difference in the condition of the collection. Therefore, *it was moved by Danny Rebb, seconded by Marilyn Mitchell, to donate, rather than loan, First Church’s paper archives for preservation to the Bentley Collection, passed unanimously.*

Member Recognition – Sally Borden: The Board discussed several options to recognize both long-time and new members who have made consistent contributions to First Church. A subcommittee consisting of Cynthia Zurschmiede, Kathe Stevens and Rev. Mohr will create a plan.

NEW BUSINESS

Young Adult Outreach: Matt Friedrichs reported that, in the interests of outreach to the community and learning about the congregation, the Young Adults propose to host an intergenerational potluck or after-service coffee hour. The suggested format would be older members telling congregational stories and younger members providing technology tutorials. Consensus was positive and Danny Rebb will convey the information to the Worship Committee in order to plan for an Intergenerational Exchange on Sunday, April 14.

PR Task Force On Gay Marriage – Rev. Mohr: In response to a U.S. District Court lawsuit which has the possibility of overturning Michigan’s ban on gay marriages, Rev. Mohr noted that the Board, and the congregation, has an opportunity to respond proactively on several levels. The Board’s consensus was to actively support the issue but a decision on how to effectuate the support was not deferred at this time because the U.S. Supreme Court is considering a similar case which may change the outcome in Michigan. In the interim, it was agreed that First Church should reevaluate its presence at PrideFest, especially since the Young Adults are interested in social justice issues. It was *moved by Danny Rebb, seconded by Kathe Stevens, that First Church will contribute \$150 to share a \$450 table at PrideFest with two other groups; passed unanimously.* Danny Rebb, congregational liaison to Michigan UU Social Justice Network, will coordinate table-sharing with Randy Block of MUUSJN and contact the Young Adults regarding possible interest, and involvement, in PrideFest.

BAMN Request – Rev. Mohr: The National Coordinator of the organization “By Any Means Necessary” requested an opportunity to inform the congregation about organizing efforts for immigrant rights and to ask for support, which would involve a special collection at a service. The consensus of the Board was that while the cause was worthy, requests to the congregation for money needed to be more narrowly focused. Rev. Mohr will inform BAMN of the Board’s decision.

Housekeeping – Marsha Bruhn. Under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding, the East Michigan Environmental Action Council, now the owner of the buildings, is responsible for cleaning; however, the sanctuary is not being cleaned by EMEAC. It was agreed that disbanding the Buildings & Grounds Committee was premature given that there are still building issues. The consensus was, for the short term, to organize another spring clean-up. Marsha will contact Dale Compton to see if he is interested in reconstituting a B&G committee, and the Committee could organize regularly scheduled cleaning. Sean McAde is a good contact for information on cleaning the building.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathe Stevens, Governing Board Secretary