

MINUTES
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
First Unitarian Universalist Church
June 12, 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 June 12, 2013. President Sally Borden called the meeting to order at 7:09pm 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), Cynthia Zurschmiede (Vice-President), Marilyn Mitchell (Immediate Past President) Dan Wiest (Treasurer), Kathe Stevens (Secretary), Marsha Bruhn, Sean McAde and Rev. Roger Mohr. Also present were incoming Board members Matt Friedrichs and Joan Smykowski, as well as guests Victor Arbulu, Treasurer of East Michigan Environmental Action Council (EMEAC) and Bill McKnight, member of First Church. Sandra Thottakath and Danny Rebb were excused. There was a quorum.

Minister's Welcome: Rev. Mohr opened the meeting with an invocation, noting that it was the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Medgar Evers.

Appointment of Officers: Sally noted that the By-Laws of First Church had been amended to change the treasurer and secretary positions to appointed, rather than elected, positions. **It was moved by Marilyn Mitchell, seconded by Marsha Bruhn, to appoint Dan Wiest as Treasurer and Kathe Stevens as Secretary; approved unanimously.**

Special Presentation – EMEAC Request to Purchase Prentis Parking Lot: Victor Arbulu introduced himself and distributed "UU Debt and Prentis Parking Lot Agreement" which he hoped would be presented to the Congregation to be considered for a vote.

Victor outlined improvements EMEAC had made and mentioned future projects. EMEAC staff and building tenants have been denied access at times to the Prentis parking lot because it is full. He presented his argument for sale of the lot to EMEAC, as described in the handout.

Bill McKnight spoke as an EMEAC Board member as well as a First Church congregational member. He spoke to the partnership with EMEAC and asked the Board to present the sale of the parking lot to EMEAC on the terms in the handout to the Congregation as soon as possible.

There was a lengthy discussion which covered other approaches for maintaining and monitoring the lot and questions delving into the ability of EMEAC to pay for the lot. Sally thanked Victor and Bill for their presentation.

Tribute: Outgoing Board President, Sally Borden, was thanked for her service over the last two years. Appreciation was also expressed to outgoing Immediate Past President, Marilyn Mitchell, as well as Sandra Thottakath, also completing her term.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the previous meeting having been distributed and reviewed as well as draft minutes from the recent congregational meeting, it was **moved by Dan Wiest, seconded by Marsha Bruhn, to approve minutes from the May 8, 2013 meeting as presented, as well as draft minutes from the May 19, 2013 annual congregational meeting as presented, the draft**

minutes to be posted on the First Church website for the Congregation's perusal; passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Dan Wiest presented a written financial report accompanied by a profit and loss statement for May 2013 and balance sheet as of May 30, 2013. Dan summarized his written report. First Church is over budget for several reasons, some of which are underestimated office expenses, costs associated with Sunday social hour help and an insurance premium increase for Rev. Mohr's health insurance. The projected year-end deficit is \$14,000. There is not a projection on cash flow. Pledging is at 84%. The cash flow problems are short term; First Church has assets as well as income. To bridge the gap, increase revenue and plan for a future with two to three years adequate cash flow, it was proposed to establish a development subcommittee and a finance committee.

It was moved by Marilyn Mitchell, seconded by Sean McAde, to establish a development committee to raise funds immediately and develop a long term plan for fundraising, and to establish a finance committee to help with management of money; approved unanimously.

Initial members of the committees are contemplated to be Rev. Mohr, Sydney Schaaf, Kathe Stevens and Matt Friedrichs for development and Dan Wiest, Sharlene Gage and Rev. Mohr for finance.

A fundraising drive to help to bridge the short term cash flow gap was discussed. Some pledging members will be contacted to request advance payment of their pledge; Dan Wiest will solicit funds via a post on Facebook and an email circulated to the First Church listserv. Dan will also work with Dan Secrest and Robert Johnson to have a First Church PayPal account linked to the website.

Prentis Parking Lot: After discussion, it was agreed that First Church has some obligation to make sure EMEAC has access to the Prentis lot; the Board's goal is for EMEAC to succeed. Marsha distributed a proposal from Integrity Building Group regarding upgrades to the Prentis lot. A parking lot subcommittee was formed of Kathe Stevens, Sean McAde and Marsha Bruhn. The subcommittee will research options and report back to the Board.

Leadership Retreat: A retreat for the Board, committees and church leaders will be on July 13 in the afternoon. Several options were discussed for a venue, Marsha Bruhn, Rev. Mohr and Matt Friedrichs will investigate.

Takemoto House: Long-time church member Eiko Takemoto is moving and her family has donated her house in Detroit to First Church. Marilyn Mitchell reported that the deed transferring ownership of the house to First Church has been signed. The condition of the house, security, contents, appliances and other details were described. After discussion it was the consensus of the Board that a potential renter should be identified immediately and the house should be sold as soon possible. Marilyn will handle details of the rental. To protect the house from scrappers until a renter is found, two Board members offered to spend nights at the house.

It was moved by Marilyn Mitchell, seconded by Dan Wiest, to call a congregational meeting to request authorization to sell the Takemoto house when the timing is right; approved unanimously. A meeting date of August 4, 2013 was selected. Dan Wiest will put the notice of the congregational meeting in the newsletter.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathe Stevens, First UU Church Governing Board Secretary