

MINUTES
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit
January 8, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on January 8, 2014. Present were President, Marsha Bruhn; Immediate Past President, Sally Borden; Secretary, Kathe Stevens; Treasurer, Dan Wiest; Trustees-at-Large, Matt Friedrichs, Sean McAde and Joan Smykowski; and guest, Tim Bailey. Vice President Danny Rebb was excused. President Bruhn called the meeting to order at 7:10pm. There was a quorum.

OPENING WORDS AND MINISTER'S REPORT: Rev. Mohr reported that in the next week members of UU Ministry for Earth, a national environmental justice organization, will be in Detroit and introduced to local organizations focused on eco-justice by Mary Lou Malone and Matt Friedrichs. He also noted that the Ascendants series finished with a consistent attendance of seven to eight participants.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of the previous meeting having been distributed and reviewed, ***it was moved by Dan Wiest, seconded by Joan Smykowski, to approve the minutes from the December 11, 2013 meeting as presented; approved.***

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dan Wiest presented and reviewed his financial report. He distributed an updated November 2013 profit and loss statement, summarizing the differences between previous November profit and loss statement and the new, and also distributed a profit and loss statement for December 2013. The Unitarian Universalist Association has issued new retirement enrollment options which affect Reverend Mohr. Dan will work with the Finance Committee and report back to the board.

It was moved by Kathe Stevens, seconded by Joan Smykowski, to approve the financial statements as presented; approved.

COMMITTEE/PROGRAM REPORTS:

Worship – Danny Rebb submitted a written report, which was accepted as presented.

Buildings and Grounds – Marsha Bruhn welcomed B&G Committee member Tim Bailey to the meeting, expressing gratitude for his continuing work. Tim distributed a draft projects list which documents work done by B&G. Kathe Stevens agreed to help refine the format to provide as much information as possible.

Finance – Dan Wiest reported that if there is snow fall on Sunday, church members will have to remove snow from Forest lot and sidewalks. Dan was authorized to make a decision about *ad hoc* professional plowing on as-is needed basis.

Outreach – Joel Batterman will be asked to provide a written report and/or present to the board at the next meeting.

Membership – Joan Smykowski summarized her written report. The committee has found that, using the criteria under Article III, Section 1 of the By-Laws, there are 79 pledging units who have signed the membership book, made a monetary pledge of support and made a financial contribution of record in the past year. There are eight new or long-term members not in good standing because they have not pledged; they will be a particular focus of the upcoming canvass.

Matt Friedrichs explained about a MOSES-based “listening campaign,” beginning with small group training to build up one-on-one conversations with the entire congregation. Relationship building exercises would focus on solutions and relationships, not on problems, which would work strongly to mitigate anxiety over finances. Matt will meet with Membership Committee to further evolve this idea.

Development – Kathe Stevens reported that the new congregational directory is ready to be printed. Kathe will alert the congregation that names and contact details will be published via social media and the Sunday order of service.

Young Adult Group – Matt Friedrichs reported that the Young Adult Groups plans to do a monthly service project.

OLD BUSINESS

First UU/EMEAC – no report.

Prentis Parking Lot – a meeting to discuss the Prentis Parking Lot was cancelled due to weather conditions. It was agreed to reschedule the meeting to Sunday, January 12 at 9:00 A.M.

Childcare – deferred.

Criminal Background Check Policies and Procedure – the draft policy prepared by Joan Smykowski was discussed. It was agreed that the past presidents of the board would be a good choice as “[p]ersons responsible for checking” under Section 2a. The training referred to in Section 2e(iii) may be obtained from several sources, including the Michigan State Police. ***It was moved by Kathe Stevens, seconded by Sally Borden, to implement the Criminal Background Check Policies and Procedure, with two amendments, language underlined:*** Under Section 2a the language “the Board of Trustees shall assign three persons qualified for reviewing criminal background transcripts and approving or denying placement” shall be changed to read “the Board of Trustees shall assign at least two persons qualified for reviewing criminal background transcripts and approving or denying placement.” Under Section 2e(iii) the language “persons selected shall perform required training at ##### to submitting or evaluating any criminal history transcripts” shall be changed to read “persons selected shall perform required training prior to submitting or evaluating any criminal history transcripts.” **Approved.** Dan Wiest will check with Church Mutual to obtain costs for background checks.

PayPal Policy – discussion on the draft policy prepared by Kathe Stevens was tabled.

Six-Month Follow-Up on Leadership Retreat – Marsha Bruhn will follow up to get written reports on the four goals discussed at the Leadership Retreat.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Budgets – in order to better forecast the 2014-15 budget, committees will be requested to provide proposed budgets. Dan Wiest will put an article in the newsletter advising that the board is looking for budget requests from the committees. Kathe will email a list of the committee chairs to Dan.

Collecting Policies & Procedures – Kathe Stevens and Sally Borden volunteered to collect current policies and procedures to assemble in one location.

OTHER BUSINESS

Business Resolution – Kathe Stevens described a petition to have a resolution placed on the 2014 General Assembly agenda to request the UUA to divest the Common Endowment Fund from fossil fuels. The petition was signed by 17 First Church congregants and must be certified by the minister or a board member. The consensus was to have Rev. Mohr certify the petition and return it to the circulator, Unitarian Universalists for Fossil Fuel Divestment and Sustainable Reinvestment.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:09pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathe Stevens, Secretary