

## MINUTES

### *Meeting of the Board of Trustees: First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit*

Whole Foods Community Room, 115 Mack Ave, Detroit, MI 48201

July 9, 2014

**CALL TO ORDER:** A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on July 9, 2014. Present were President, Marsha Bruhn; Vice President, Danny Rebb; Immediate Past President, Sally Borden; Secretary, Kathe Stevens; Treasurer, Dan Wiest; Trustees-at-Large, Paul Chislett, Matt Friedrichs and Joan Smykowski; and Rev. Roger Mohr, *Ex Officio*. Also present were guests Tim Bailey, Linda Darga and Yvonne Ham. Trustee-at-Large, Joel Batterman, was absent. President Bruhn called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. There was a quorum of the Board.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:** Marsha Bruhn noted changes to the agenda: Linda Darga's proposal; discussion regarding the Prentis parking lot lease was moved to the beginning of new business. It was **moved** by Kathe Stevens, seconded by Dan Wiest, to adopt the agenda as changed; **passed**.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes of the previous meeting having been distributed and reviewed, it was **moved** by Kathe Stevens, seconded by Matt Friedrichs, to approve the minutes from the June 11, 2014 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees as presented; **passed**.

**PROPOSAL TO FUND THE CANTOR POSITION (LINDA DARGA):** Marsha Bruhn welcomed Linda Darga. Linda described a plan to fund the cantor position for one Sunday a month by taking a collection from eight or nine choir members each month. The collection is specifically for Gwen Foss, not for the cantor position *per se*. Gwen is aware of the choir's proposal and is willing to sing one Sunday a month. Linda stated that the choir also has agreed to work on fundraisers to pay down the obligation for Rev. Mohr's retirement fund. It was pointed out that when the Board was deliberating the budget, it was agreed that outstanding obligations must be covered first, and that the congregation voted to approve the 2014-15 budget with the staff cuts. Kathe Stevens, chair of the Development Committee, thanked Linda and welcomed her to bring ideas to the Development Committee. Kathe will put meeting dates in the Sunday order of service as well as in the church newsletter. Linda thanked the Board and excused herself from the meeting.

**MINISTERS REPORT:** Rev. Mohr reported that he will miss the August Board meeting due to Gamaliel Foundation training. There was discussion on how Gamaliel fits into the goals of the church. It was suggested that the Board meeting date be changed to accommodate Rev. Mohr's schedule.

**Proposal to Fund the Cantor Position (Yvonne Ham):** Marsha Bruhn welcomed Yvonne Ham, who presented an idea for a fundraising service auction. The proposal is focused on financial needs although she noted she would have a hard time putting effort into something that did not include funding for Gwen Foss. Yvonne did not have specific details on who would lead the project or how it would be organized. Kathe Stevens thanked Yvonne for sharing her ideas and invited her to bring her ideas to the Development Committee. Yvonne then excused herself.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Marsha Bruhn summarized her written report. She is waiting to hear from EMEAC on a meeting to discuss space usage and the new agreement and continues to focus on efforts to help EMEAC with its long-term goals.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Dan Wiest reviewed the June 2014 Profit and Loss Statement which had been distributed to the Board. The UUA Book Fair raised over \$300.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Finance** – The Finance Committee made a decision to pay \$5,094 to Rev. Mohr's retirement fund from the \$6,300 received from the Church Trust in March 2013. The Finance Committee believed it would be best to allocate the money to the current fiscal year, 2014-2015, so that the obligation does not keep accruing, to develop an idea on actual arrearage. The arrearage after payment of the \$5,094 is \$14,394 for three years. The Finance Committee has committed to pay off the arrearage in three years, plus losses sustained.

**Development** – Kathe Stevens submitted a written report, with a draft Fundraising Policy and a draft Fundraising and Event Information Form, which the Committee will refine and bring to the Board for approval. Joan Smykowski reported on the next fundraiser being planned, a Scavenger Hunt in conjunction with Dally in the Alley. Joan also reported that the Committee is working on a long-term fundraiser, UU're Home, a bed and breakfast service for Unitarian-Universalists.

**Canvass**– Joan Smykowski and Kathe Stevens submitted a written report. They will attend a conference, “Building a Culture of Generosity,” on Saturday, September 20 at First Unitarian Church in Cincinnati, OH.

**Buildings & Grounds, Membership, Outreach, Worship** – no report.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Prentis Parking Lot** – Tim Bailey reviewed the draft Memorandum of Agreement proposed by Motor City Brewing and Cass Café, as the Prentis Parking Partnership, and an accompanying Lease Worksheet. The Memorandum is a starting point for negotiations. The Lease Worksheet reflects concerns about losing the lease after investing in the property. It was agreed to involve Barris Sott Denn & Driker.

**Printer/Copier** – Sally Borden reported that Ricoh prepared several proposals, including purchase of a certified refurbished copier. A decision must be made by the end of August; however, Sally will email the proposals to the Board for approval since July prices may be better. The current copier may be purchased for \$1. The consensus of the Board was to purchase the current copier for resale.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**UUA Outreach Beta Testing** – Kathe Stevens provided a copy of the UUA Outreach Beta-Tester Intake Form. The consensus of the Board was support for the project and Kathe agreed to find a congregant who could participate and who could follow through on all aspects of the program.

**Detroit Water Shut-Off Petition** – Rev. Mohr reported that he received a direct appeal from Rev. Bill Shultz, president of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and former president of the UUA, requesting that he sign a UUSC petition regarding the Detroit water shut-offs. Rev. Mohr felt the petition was too broad to sign. He suggested alternative wording to a staff member at UUSC but was told the petition would not be altered. The consensus of the Board, the majority of whom are Detroit residents, was that there was no support for the petition in its present form. Rev. Mohr will prepare a Statement of Conscience for Michigan UU Social Justice Network.

**Parking Meters on Cass and Forest** – Marsha Bruhn reported that Cass Café has asked First Church to support the installation of parking meters on Cass and Forest. After discussion, it was agreed to support installation of meters on Cass Avenue, only. Marsha will raise the issue with EMEAC to make sure it is aware of the proposal.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Proposals from Linda Darga/Yvonne Ham** – The Board noted the congregation’s surprise about the elimination of the cantor position and discussed having an informational congregational meeting every quarter. The consensus of the Board was that this is a staffing issue, not a fundraising issue. The fundraising proposals will be deferred to the Development Committee. Marsha Bruhn will contact Linda and Yvonne, and Rev. Mohr will contact Gwen Foss and Music Director, Todd Ballou, to report the Board decision.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 P.M.

**Respectfully submitted,**

*Kathe Stevens*, Governing Board Secretary