

MINUTES

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit

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

October 8, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on October 8, 2014. Present were President, Marsha Bruhn; Vice President, Danny Rebb; Immediate Past President, Sally Borden; Secretary, Kathe Stevens; Treasurer, Dan Wiest; Trustees-at-Large, Joel Batterman, Paul Chislett, Matt Friedrichs and Joan Smykowski; and Rev. Roger Mohr, *Ex Officio*. President Bruhn called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. There was a quorum of the Board.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: It was **moved** by Kathe Stevens, seconded by Dan Wiest, to adopt the agenda as presented; **passed**.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Bob Lauer distributed and reviewed an updated profit and loss statement which presented financial information in a new format.
- Action steps in the next few months will be to look at expenses and hold those down. In that regard, Bob reported that the Finance Committee has committed to use zero hours from the office administrator.
- Rev. Mohr's retirement arrearage is being paid off at \$400 a month. The arrearage is not on the P&L but after the finance committee is able to make more progress a balance sheet will be available. The total is near \$14,000.
- The board is planning to hold a congregational meeting in November or December at which time the financial position of the church will be communicated to the congregation.

It was **moved** by Kathe Stevens, seconded by Danny Rebb, to accept the treasurer's report as presented; **approved**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the previous meeting having been distributed and reviewed, it was **moved** by Kathe Stevens, seconded by Sally Borden, to approve the minutes from the September 10, 2014 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees as presented; **approved**.

MINISTERS REPORT: Rev. Mohr talked about the emotional costs of his ministry and questioned how to report to the board. Sally Borden, Marsha Bruhn and Danny Rebb will meet with Rev. Mohr.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Marsha Bruhn summarized her written report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance – Marsha Bruhn requested that the finance committee create a policy on professional expenses.

Worship – Danny Rebb submitted a written report.

Development – Kathe Stevens submitted a written report.

Building & Grounds – Dan Wiest reported that the congregation will be asked to donate time or materials to paint the bride’s room. Dan also reported on a \$33 repair made to the kitchen faucet.

Outreach – Joel Batterman summarized his written report.

Membership – Joan Smykowski submitted a written report.

Canvass – Joan Smykowski and Kathe Stevens submitted a written report regarding the Unitarian-Universalist Stewardship Conference on generosity which they attended.

UUA Outreach Beta-Testing – Kathe Stevens submitted a written report and responded to questions about the process of the outreach testing.

OLD BUSINESS:

Childcare – Sally Borden reported that she has requested child care volunteers.

Noel Night – Matt Friedrichs reported on a meeting with EMEAC and other representatives from the Commons. The \$300 cost of greens for the church was donated last year by Dan Wiest; the cost was rolled into the Noel Night budget for this year.

NEW BUSINESS:

Donation of Yamaha Organ – Marsha Bruhn reported on a communication from a lifelong UU who works in the neighborhood who has offered to donate a Yamaha organ. The question will be deferred to First Church Music Director, Todd Ballou.

Girl Scout Religious Relations Committee – Marsha Bruhn reported on Beth Bailey’s summary of the recent successful Girl Scouts visit. As a result of the visit, at the Girl Scouts’ request, Sally Borden agreed to serve on the Girl Scout Religious Relations committee as First Church’s representative.

Interfaith Leadership Council of Metropolitan Detroit – The invitation to sponsor a table for IFLC’s upcoming awards banquet was deferred to the Outreach Committee.

Meals for a Congregant – A congregant who had surgery recently reached out to Marsha Bruhn to ask for help with meals. It was agreed that Marsha will call the congregant to see if the congregant is agreeable to spreading the word of the need for help.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Symposium at WSU – Marsha Bruhn distributed information provided by Nancy Owen Nelson about an upcoming WSU symposium on urban issues, a topic which will touch on many concerns of First Church.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathe Stevens, Governing Board Secretary