

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of Trustees
First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit
4605 Cass, Detroit, MI 48201
October 20, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on October 20, 2016. Present were Kathe Stevens, President; Dan Wiest, Vice President; Danny Rebb, Secretary; Robert Lauer, Treasurer; Dan Hale, Sydney Schaaf, Nathan Strickland, Jr., and Dave Vaillencourt, Trustees-at-Large; and Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Interim Minister. Marsha Bruhn, Immediate Past President, was excused. President Kathe Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M. There was a quorum of the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the previous meeting were distributed and reviewed. It was **moved** by Dave Vaillencourt, seconded by Nathan Strickland, Jr., to accept the minutes from the September 21, 2016 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees as presented; **approved**.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Kathe Stevens summarized her written report and answered questions.

TREASURER: Bob Lauer reviewed *Statement of Operations FYE 06/30/2016*, and answered questions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no reports from: Building and Grounds, Care, Child Care, Communications, Social Justice committees or the EMEAC Liaison.

ByLaw Ad Hoc Committee – The ByLaw Ad Hoc Committee presented a written report. It has completed review of the bylaws, making changes to create more flexibility, consistent language, adding articles which are common practices in bylaws, and removing articles that do not currently apply to UU Detroit. It hopes to have the final draft for Board review and approval in November in order to present to the congregation at the bi-annual meeting in December.

Finance Committee – At the request of the Settled Minister Search Committee, Bob Lauer prepared and presented alternative budgets to consider. Kathe Stevens will discuss the budgets with Deanna McGraw, chair of the SMSC. We are still waiting to hear from TIAA-CREF concerning the balance owed on Rev. Mohr's retirement package.

Membership Committee – Kathe Stevens advised that she had spoken with Dessa Cosma, who has just taken over as chair of Membership. Due to the immediacy of her appointment, Dessa had nothing to report as of the date of the Board meeting.

Planning Committee – Deanna McGraw, member of the Planning Committee, submitted a written report. After review, the Board approved the *September 30, 2016 Strategic Plan Third Quarter Report*. Priorities from the congregational survey could be used at the upcoming planning meeting.

Settled Minister Search Committee – Deanna McGraw, chair of the SMSC, submitted a written report. The Congregational Survey has been completed with 75 participants. The results will be available by the end of October and distributed to the Board and congregation through the UU Detroit web site. The Committee is putting the final touches on its recruitment plan and preparing the interview process, with a plan to start recruitment in early January 2017.

Social Justice Committee: Committee Chair Joel Batterman has resigned. A new chair or co-chair must be identified and objectives created.

Young Adults Group: EMEAC is participating in **Noel Night**. The Young Adult group will be running the UnCommon Grounds Café again.

OLD BUSINESS:

Music Director's Contract: The board approved Todd Ballou's contract for the 2016-17 fiscal year at its July 13, 2016 meeting. Subsequently, new board member Dan Hale offered to review the contract to reorganize and clarify the language. Todd preferred to sign a reviewed and revised contract, rather than signing the approved 2016-17 contract. Dan completed his review and revisions and Todd Ballou approved the revised contract. After discussion, it was **moved** by Sidney Schaaf, seconded by Nathan Strickland, Jr., to accept the revised Music Director Contract; **approved**. Kathe Stevens will secure Todd's signature, sign on behalf of the Board, and file the contract in the church office.

Migration of Website: Sydney Schaaf reported on progress for the architecture and migration of the new website. Sydney and Aletha Oberdier are continuing to populate the new website with finished content so that it will be ready to launch by the Settled Minister Search Committee's timeline of January 2017.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sanctuary Rug: Marsha Bruhn submitted a written report. It was the consensus of the Board that a second quote should be obtained; deferred to the November 10 board meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Share the Plate Policy & Procedure: The Worship Committee submitted a written request to appoint a three-person *ad hoc* committee comprised of representatives of the Finance, Social Justice, and Worship committees to revise the Share the Plate Policy and Procedure to better adapt it to UU Detroit use. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to agree to the appointment of Bob Lauer (Finance) and Mary Lou Malone (Worship); Bob and Mary Lou will identify the third person for the committee. This *ad hoc* committee will present its proposal for a revised Share the Plate P&P to the Board for approval.

Proposal to Work with Muslim/Pakistani organization: Nancy Owen Nelson submitted a written request she had received from a nonprofit asking to connect with a Detroit church to organize a Christmas party for needy families on December 3. Since December 3 is Noel Night, Nancy will be advised that the buildings will be otherwise occupied.

Lease of Spaces in Prentis Lot: Kelsey Von Wormer, owner of the apartment building at 437 W. Forest Avenue, submitted a written report requesting rental of two spaces from the 20 spaces along the alley in the Prentis lot, for overflow parking for her tenants. After discussion, it was agreed that Bob Lauer would follow up with Ms. Von Wormer to get details and pricing, and report back to the Board.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Wiest, on behalf of Danny Rebb, Governing Board Secretary

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, November 10, 2016 at the Whole Foods Community Room.