

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of Trustees
First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit
Parlor, 4605 Cass, Detroit, MI 48201
November 18, 2018

CALL TO ORDER: Dan Hale called the regular meeting of the Governing Board of Trustees to order at 12:50pm on November 18, 2018. Present were Reverend Stephen Butler Murray, Dan Hale, President; Don Wiest, Vice President, Dan Secrest, Deanna McGraw, and Sharon Wills, Trustees-at-Large; Bob Lauer, Treasurer, and Nancy Shattuck, Interim Board Secretary. There was a quorum.

COVENANT: Dan Hale, President, led the board in the reading of the following covenant: "We covenant to work together in honesty, kindness, and respect for each other as we carry out the business of this church. We are a religious community. Let us move forward in love."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: It was **moved, seconded and approved** to adopt the October 2018 Board Minutes, with amendments.

MINISTER'S REPORT: Reverend Murray reported an increase in hospital and rehab center visits and discussed contacting or visiting Mary Lou Malone more; Sharon Mills will set up computer greetings from the social hall.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Dan Hale reported news that EMEAC will not get the city grant and that IFF has withdrawn their offer, so we will not be making the donation we offered. They risk losing a new board member as a result. He contacted a NY organization that can raise funds and rehab old churches, but UU Detroit would have to own the property to qualify for their services.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Bob Lauer distributed the Statement of Operations and Actual vs. Budget reports for the year ending June 30, 2019 and answered questions.
- The year ending June 30, 2019, UU Detroit donations were down this year, but expenses are well below budget, which puts us in the black.

COMMITTEE/PROGRAM REPORTS: Written and oral reports were given for the following:

- **Communication Committee:** Dan Secrest distributed the Communication Committee report for October 2018. He talked about a need to connect with the Worship Committee regarding effective communication. He will hold a workshop on January 6 at 18201 Parkside, presenting ideas from the *Getting to Yes* book.
- **Share the Plate (ad hoc committee):** Climate change is hitting UU congregations in California, and we gave hundreds to two.
- **Worship Committee:** Nancy Owen-Nelson submitted a written report: minutes from the last meeting. No discussion.
- **Young Adults:** Stephanie Murphy is being considered to start up a Religious Education program. She was involved with the UU in Atlanta and has relocated here to care for her mother in Dearborn. She met with Spencer, who is our child care person now.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Leadership Retreat Results:** Dan Wiess is getting together a small group for the Social justice committee with a December 9th kickoff in which Freedom House will participate. He wants to keep momentum going by adding things each month: classes on racism, coordinating with them. This is a pilot program doing our own work max twenty participants. Reverend Murray plans to focus on immigration and human rights issues in January sermons.
- **Education on Estate Planning:** No one has found an attorney to take on the probono work, but the board is committed to pursuing it.
- **What Next Initiatives:** The Board discussed and agreed on getting feedback from the congregation on plans. To help rank four options, Dan Hale proposed a possible questionnaire for the congregation, limited to five or six questions. It will be distributed to the board, finalized, and handed out at the December 2nd quarterly meeting.
- **Update on Williams Estate.** Dan Hale reported that pursuing legal aid to track probate decisions on the Williams estate isn't worth it. There may or may not be money coming to the church. For now, Connie Hirt has bequeathed nine percent of her estate to UU and the lawyer will get back to Dan on how much that is.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Nominations for the Next Election Cycle:** Dan Hale presented three concerns. He recommended Stephany for the Religious Education Committee with favorable response. Second, Dan Wiest has been filling in as chair of the Social Justice Committee, but Nathan Strickland will not be coming back to pick up the chair, so we need a permanent nominee. Third, will Marsha Bogner be managing the nomination process? The Board will make suggestions for possible nominations at the next meeting.
- **Meeting Schedule:** Dan Hale brought up discussion on how many meetings the board should hold for 2019. After discussion of bylaws and needs, the board decided to eliminate board meetings in August for the future.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT: Dan Hale adjourned the meeting at 2:30pm.

Next Meeting (NOTE NEW DATE/TIME and LOCATION):

Next meetings are January 20 and February 17, 2019