UU Detroit Board Meeting Minutes
for May 16, 2021, 12:45 - 2:00pm
over Zoom https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87503145190

Covenant - Read individually (on mute except one person)

We covenant to work together in honesty, kindness and respect for each other as we carry out our elected responsibilities to do the business of this church to the best of our abilities. We are a religious community. Let us move forward in love.

Present

Dan Secrest, President
Mark Tade, Vice President
Dan Hale, Immediate Past President
Steven Curtin, Trustee
Scott Lehto, Trustee
Reverend Dr. Stephen Murray, Minister
Jody Wise, Trustee (excused absence)
Dan Wiest, Trustee
Bob Lauer, Treasurer
Nancy Shattuck, Secretary

Met the quorum

Review Minutes from Last Month and Today's Agenda

Dan Secrest shared his location of the minutes with the board, leading us through mining our Google documents to find the minutes. He reviewed the contents. Minutes from the 4/18/2021 Board Meeting were approved with changes on paperless bill procedures, discussion on Scott Lehto serving as both President and Worship Committee chair resolved he would continue.

There were no additions to the agenda.

Minister's Report

Reverend Murray stepped in to take up a speaker's family emergency. So his schedule changed for May. He's submitted his schedule through August. He's met with the Nomination Committee, and Scott Lehto is running unopposed. He expressed his gratitude to Scott for stepping forward and to Dan Secrest for his outstanding service. He is still working on a date to return to Detroit.

President's Report

Canvass coming this week! Dan Secrest points out that the outlook on transition seems to be improving. He opened a discussion on allowing vaccinated people to take off masks indoors and outdoors when we have no guarantees that this will work. He also approached the idea of moving up the date that we return to the church, but thinks we are not in a position to make a decision yet. He will bring it up at our annual meeting. As of now, we are still thinking of returning to the church in September. Last, he commended Sally Borden for communicating on caring issues, as does Reverend Murray. He reports Mary Lou Malone was in the hospital, Elayne Sikelianos has a surgery slated, and many congregants have been helping her out.

Trust Update

Dan Hale reviewed historical precedents for the trust:

- Created in 1964, it had a sharp decline when it contributed about $350/month to the church spending.
- Authority for the trust ("Declaration of Trust") is explicit and can only be changed by trustees, exclusive management by the trustees,
- Church is the sole beneficiary but has no powers; reports are to be given during the annual meeting, declared to be in existence in perpetuity until the five trustees agree to terminate it.
- Trustees pick the trustees going forward; they must be members. Today, trustees are Marilyn Mitchell, Charlene Gage, Dan Hale, Charles McKnight and James Robinson.
- The "Bylaws" are consistent with the declaration. The Center for financial planning, an independent group's, annual review in April showed $354,000 in deposits have risen to $360,000 largely due to bequests. It holds $75,000 that is the church's money. It is included in the total.
- May need one or two new members of the trust.
- Dan Secrest will store the trust data on the Google doc site.
- Dan Hale will hold off on the bylaws. He will clean up that part of the documents.

Administration

- Nancy S working on Google Groups maintenance after brief hiccup not her fault.

Communications

- Missives from the Moguls -- Dan Secrest announced it will be Dan Wiest this month.
- Best practices for sharing documents -- Dan Secrest demonstrated what he has set up:
    - New folder structure: Worship, Music, Programs, Finance, etc.
    - Sharing documents and photos good -- can be linked to website,FB, etc.
    - Google Support has been helpful. Never have to wait.
- Communication Practices and Netiquette:
    - Membership issue - How to share negative feedback?
    - Resources
        - Communications Website
            - Robert's Rules of Order Dan Secrest wants to share this for the Annual Meeting.
            - Guidelines for Committees -- Preferred modes of communication. Have a discussion on this.
            - Getting to Yes Nancy Owen Nelson shared this link on opening up communication.
        - Britanica: https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette

- Tech Terms: https://techterms.com/definition/netiquette
- The Core Rules of Netiquette: http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html
- https://www.hfcc.edu/online-learning/nettiquette

Finance

- April Financial Reports. Bob Lauer reports YTD, we are still ahead on pledges and non-pledge contributions. He reports no extraordinary expenses and we are still $3,000 below budget on expenses. Margin of safety is excellent right now, but it will go down in the future. Payroll protection will be moved to June and will be a revenue item that is offset by the expense. Fourth year of Reverend Murray's contract states he has a vested sabbatical and that must be shown as an expense item. It will start accruing as of July.
- Starting budget from Bob. This is a projection for year end and a guess for next year WITHOUT any new income or expenses yet. Bob Lauer reports he has updated the membership committee and he has feedback from the caring committee. Dan Secrest wants Bob to share this with the congregation at the annual meeting. He will go ahead and update the draft before next week.
- Church Mutual Insurance. Dan Wiest spoke on the insurance after he and Dan Secrest checked into it. The Multi-Peril insurance is mostly for the parking lot. Church Mutual Insurance compensation is based on our payroll and what we are paying employees and guest speakers. We have workers compensation and an umbrella liability policy for work in service of the church. He has an umbrella liability insurance policy. It can all be stored in Google docs.
    - annual bill
    - worker's comp audit
- UUA **FY2022** Annual Program Pledge Form. I don't remember filling this out last year. Request balance: $7,941. Received to date: $0. Can pay at https://giving.uua.org/apf. Dan Secrest asked Dan Wiest to provide the amount and he can approve it and send it out.

Programs

- Vespers
    - Another good program lined up for Thursday 5/27 led by Ruby:
      Upside Down Tapestry Mosaic History
    - CorridorOfMixedEmotions
- Social Justice Good meeting and everyone learned something.
    - Films
    - Affiliated Community Events
    - Charles in Mackinac City protesting pipeline
    - New Horizons Rehab
    - EMEAC! Dan Hale reports that he is in early stages of discussion regarding a coop structure. EMEAC is planning a joint event outdoors on Jul 3, 2021

Music

- Organ project update -- Another Update _Email correspondence about the organ reveals it is more expensive than originally thought. Total will be 2900 and the budget is only 2600. Dan Secrest is welcoming donations to make up the difference.
- Videos on website, in Music Folder _Dan Secrest announced that he has added a video to the website.

Worship

- Participants List
- The chair, Scott Lehto, reviewed the guest speakers for the month. He warned of crossing political lines and suggested discussing this at an upcoming meeting. It will be added to the agenda next month.
- Dan Secrest thanked Scott for great follow through and process enhancements. He asked for committee chairs to present reports at the annual congregation meeting and to let him know ASAP so he can allocate time on the agenda report.

Membership

- Ann Esu is a member!

Nominating Committee / Annual Meeting

- Great job by Nominating Committee!
- Agenda:
    - Election of officers and delegates.
    - Approval of budget.
    - Netiquette -- Getting to Yes.
    - Demo of storage. UU Detroit Documents

Next Board Meeting June 20, 2021

Closing - Reverend Murray