

UU Detroit Board Meeting Minutes

for July 18, 2021, 12:00 - 1:00pm

over Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87030355779>

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.

Attending:

Scott Lehto, President
Mark Tade, Vice President (absent)
Dan Secrest, Immediate Past President
Reverend Dr. Stephen Butler Murray
Steven Curtin, Trustee
Eric Gardner, Trustee
Jody Wise, Trustee
Dan Wiest, Trustee
Bob Lauer, Treasurer
Nancy Shattuck, Secretary
Andrea Esu, Trustee (absent)
Nancy Shattuck, Secretary
Airlie Strasser, Guest

Met the quorum

Review Minutes and Today's Agenda.

Scott Lehto announced a new procedure for minutes. Post minutes one week after meeting; he will distribute minutes to board two weeks before the next meeting; and then people will be ready to approve them quickly.

Steve Curtin moved to accept May 2021 meeting minutes and Dan Secrest seconded. All approved. Dan Secrest moved to accept June 1921 minutes with changes and Jody Wise seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

There were no additions to the agenda for today.

Minister's Report

Reverend Murray thanked the board for the chimes; he loves the gift. He will be preaching August 1, 8 and 15, and plans to submit the dates for September to December in the next two weeks or so. He hopes to return to Detroit by August 11 for the ice cream social if rains let up. He also added that his life is in transition now, and he's in a place where he doesn't have answers. He will do his best to serve the church in this era of transition for him and thanked us for our grace and kindness.

President's Report

Scott Lehto is scheduling one-on-one meetings, starting with Reverend Murray; he'll continue with each of the board members and asked them to send him available times.

He spoke of changes to procedures. He will transition to new document formats. preferring to use a spreadsheet to track our issues and actions on our issues. Also, he likes the 3-minute rule for all topic discussions and asks the board to help him keep meetings short. Also, in regard to email protocol, he asks that we avoid using "reply all" in our replies to correspondence.

Airlie addressed adding items to the agenda.

General Business

Trust

Dan Hale was to send Dan Secrest the trust documents but hasn't yet. Scott Lehto will follow up with Dan Hale.

Electronic Updates

Dan Secrest added a web cam to the office computer and the latest version of Windows. We don't have a church Zoom account yet. He states the annual fee is \$187 a year; If we get the automatic transcription feature, it is \$199 a year. Jody Wise will find out more about the "branding" feature. Dan Wiest says the church has a credit card. We can investigate special features and upgrade at a future date. Dan Secrest moved we buy a license and Scott Lehto seconded and it passed unanimously. Jody Wise and Dan Wiest will coordinate the purchase. Dan Secrest has also been working on the changes to our phone number with the change to Comcast.

Canvass

Dan Secrest is working on a "to do" list.

Report-Outs

EMEAC

At the EMEAC meeting, emergency repair to the stairs and ramp were addressed. There are cracks in the stairs that allow water to seep into the basement and crack the ceiling. They don't have the funds to repair it but will act on patching it. This is critical to the church as we need the ramp.

Finance

Bob Lauer reports that we finished the year with a positive \$4,000 (\$13,000 more than expected.) We had income about \$8,000 a month but expenses about \$8,000. It averaged out. Regarding the Balance sheet, we have a cash balance that will give some cushion if we have to move from the church. He will set up the new budget in Power Church, and requests the Canvass update. He believes we were under budget because of COVID.

Membership

We need a meeting to step up our membership, possibly a retreat.

Worship

Scott Lehto announced that he is stepping down as committee chair and we should make it a UU policy that Board officers do not serve as committee chairs.

Topic Round Table

Scott Lehto asked the committee chairs to step forward if they need money for their programs.

Veronica Adams, who has experience as a minister, made a suggestion in the Worship Committee that we have a memorial for Cynthia with testimonials from the congregation, no outsiders. UU should present a check at the same time (the donation would be collected from the church.)

Next meeting: 15 August 2021