

UU Detroit Board Meeting Minutes

for June 20, 2021, 12:45 - 2:00pm

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:

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

Met the quorum

Review Minutes from Last Month and Today's Agenda

- Minutes from 5/16/2021 Board Meeting No minutes available; review next month.
- Declaration of Trust Dan Hale will send the document in the future. Anything he can send will be appreciated.
- Review agenda. Additions? No additions

President's Report

Dealing with loss of Cynthia: The board discussed responses to Cynthia Murray's loss. It was decided to check with the Presbyterian church and funeral home on Tuesday to find out what Stephen wants us to do regarding flowers and possible donations to charities. Once we have

found out the charity, we can use “share the plate” donations. The board will send flowers or a food basket.

Transition priority Progress has been good. Toni Tront will make it a priority item to check with authorities on what we should do about masking when we return to the church. Toni Tront will add a notice to the newsletter for new greeters. At a service she will ask Dan to make an announcement. Find worship leaders for the services from the listings and contact them to make any announcements. Andrea thought we should address the problem of any resistance. We should have a plan on what to do.

Church governance documents Dan Secrest mentioned that the two new board members are usually presented with the physical Board binder, but no longer. He showed Andrea and Toni where they can find the church governance documents, bylaws and constitution on Google docs under the file name “Board Binder.” He said the other document that is important is our memorandum of understanding with EMEAC (EMEAC MOU), which has rules for grounds operation. He showed them they can access church documents also from the web site. Dan Secrest has also added their names to the board member list on the church website and will remove names of those leaving on July 1, when their service begins.

Trust Update

Document for website?

Administration

- Enhancement to office computer – webcam Dan Secrest fixed the office computer so we can now zoom from the office.

Communications

- Missives from the Moguls -- Dan Secrest will compose his this month.
- Need someone new to do the newsletter. Kathe documented her procedures and provided some additional guidelines. Dan announced that we need someone new.
- Upgrade Internet to Comcast Recommends this to save money and most agree with him. It will improve our wi-fi too. It would also be available to the Cass Corridor commons as well to make use of our business account. The move to make the change was carried unanimously.
- Buy a Zoom account Even though others have been generous in sharing their Zoom accounts, Dan Secrest states that if we want to grow as a church, we should buy our own annual account. As Jody says, we should keep in mind that we can terminate it if it doesn't work for us. We should go ahead and try it. He asked Jody to look into purchasing it on behalf of the church. Make the Sunday zooms on the church zoom account. One potential we need to make them host for both zoom and Facebook. Steve Curtin will set this up.
We might need to find ways to connect other people to our Facebook page.

Dan Wiest directed Dan Secrest to his parting gifts on the front porch, a pewabic pottery “spirit of Detroit” from the board.

Finance

- [May Financial Reports](#) Bob Lauer states that pledges for the month were quite high, even though we expect low donations. But some people were catching up. Revenues are better than expected. Expenses had no unusual changes but we paid insurance this month, so we ended up with loss for the month, but YTD we are lower than budgeted. We are making a profit. The pandemic has been very good for us.
- [Starting budget from Bob.](#)
- [Stretch budget](#)
- Canvass Update **D**an Secrest is behind in the Canvass, so he is proposing that we wait another month on finalizing the budget. Pledges are up \$10,000 this month.
- Discussion

Programs

- [Vespers](#) Dan Secrest talked about Ruby's presentation last month and announced the next Vesper this Thursday. We now have a history page for Vespers and Dan demonstrated how to access the files.
- Social Justice
 - Films
 - Books **A**ndrea Esu spoke of the common book; they are reading My Mother's Hands and the congregation will discuss the third section of the book this month. She wants more non-white participants for the readings. They will do small group exercises. She spoke of how the African American community tends to normalize trauma and don't want to discuss it. She is working on that.
 - [EMEAC](#) Dan Secrest mentioned their picnic on the church grounds. Cathy Tade will be the contact for this event. The board meeting is tomorrow. Dan Secrest and Dan Hale will attend.

Music

- Choir off for summer. They are breaking for the summer and won't be getting together until September. They recorded another song for next weeks' service.
- Videos [on website](#), in [Music Folder](#) They can be accessed through the church website.

Worship

- Chair Report: Scott Lehto said that they didn't do anything because they had a post grief session with the family..

Membership

- No word on last month's meeting. Dan Secrest received a report from the Membership committee. Cat Tade submitted it from the last meeting on May 30 where the committee adopted a mission statement with supporting tasks. He will post the report and mission statement on the Google documents. He thanks Mark and Scott and asked them to pass it on to Cat and Elizabeth.

Next Board Meeting July 18, 2021

Closing: Dan Wiest stepped in for the closing. He thanks Dan Secrest for his service, listing the ways he was a perfect fit for the Coronavirus crisis, our time.

Dan Secrest stepped down and turned the presidency over to Scott.