

Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of Trustees

First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit

Prepared by Nancy Shattuck and Dan Secrest

Zoom, Web Meeting

May 17, 2020

CALL TO ORDER: Dan Secrest called the regular meeting of the Governing Board of Trustees to order at 12:45 pm on May 17, 2020. The following people were present:

- Dan Secrest, President
- Dan Wiest, Vice President
- Dan Hale, Immediate Past President
- Martha Bogner, Trustee
- Scott Lehto, Trustee
- Jody Wise, Trustee
- Bob Lauer, Treasurer
- Nancy Shattuck, Secretary
- Steve Curtin, Trustee
- Reverend Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Minister

MINUTES

Dan Secrest went over a draft of April 2020 minutes.

(These are not in a format suitable for formal approval.)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Because Dan Wiest is ineligible for a 3rd term as Vice President, it was suggested that he run for the vacant Trustee at Large position (resulting from Martha stepping down). **Jody Wise moved** to suggest to the Nominating Committee that they add Dan Wiest to the slate as the fourth Trustee at Large. Scott Lehto seconded it, and it was passed unanimously.

MINISTERS REPORT

Reverend Murray reports that his online experience is becoming the new normal for both sermons and pastoral work. The UU general assembly will also meet on zoom; Elizabeth, Scott, Glenn and Kathy attended the Regional Assembly. Scott Lehto has stepped forward to serve as the next Worship Committee Chair.

FINANCE REPORT

Budget Proposal for 2020/2021

We will not ask for approval for the budget at the annual meeting because the annual canvass is not complete, so we don't have a good estimate of income for the coming year. This is because we delayed the monetary canvass to conduct a health and well being canvass in the wake of the OVID lockdown. We'll finalize the budget later in June after the canvass is complete.

Income/Expenses

Finance reports for April 2020 shows that pledge donations are down because the high donors have already completed donations for the church year. Actual Expenses exceeded Budgeted Expenses by \$11,185 because of property tax for the parking lot and the legal expense to have the church's standing changed. These two expenses will cause us to end the church year on a deficit.

Reverend Murray's Request

Reverend Murray sent an email regarding vacation time. Instead of taking vacation time, he prefers to credit his vacation time against the pay advances he has received (for two months of pay and also for sabbatical pay). Martha Bogner moved to approve this; Jody Wise seconded, and the Board unanimously approved. Prepaid sabbatical debt is canceled out by three months' vacation earned so far. Bob will find the minister's contract and send to the Board along with details of the vacation credit.

Paycheck Protection Program

We did get the loan, and Dan Wiest deposited \$13,500. This will be interest free and should be forgiven if 70% is spent on payroll, rent, and utilities. The program runs through the end of June. Dan Secrest will determine whether there's a deadline for money expense.

Parking Lot

Dan Hale reports that the Michigan Board of Review declined the UU petition for reduction of taxes. We'd have to appeal it to the Michigan tax tribunal or appeal property classification by end of June. We should go for both. The lot is classified as commercial, but 25%-30% is not commercial, which will be the maximum reduction. The lot is valued at \$411,000, and we maintain the right to retain places.

We need to decide what we want to do with the property. Sewage is \$200/month, offset by rentals of \$1,400/month. We need a cost benefit analysis of options, continue as is, sell it, or sell to someone who will lease it back. Dan Hale will ask our lawyer which of the three make the most sense right now. We haven't used up the \$3,000 retainer yet, so he recommends getting an appraiser to put a price on the lot.

Miscellaneous

Dan Secrest picked up hardcopy mail including an overdue water bill and UUA dues request. The canvass is underway.

PROGRAMS & EVENTS:

Worship Committee

Dan Secrest announced the new committee chair will be Scott Lehto and he thanked the outgoing chairs.

Social Justice Committee

Charles King reports that the Common Read group has completed discussion of *An Indigenous People's History of the United States*. The group will follow it up with a reading of Louise Erdrich's *The Night Watchman*. Virtual showings are slated for the movies *The Best Democracy Money Can Buy* in May, and *United States of Alek* for June.

Membership Committee, Kathe Stevens

Because of coronavirus, the in-person retreat, the picnic, and homecoming congregational lunch have been put on hold. Kathe is requesting a budget of \$2,300 with \$500 for supplies, \$200 for greeters and \$1,600 budgeted for the catered lunch for members.

Glenn Maxwell's movie was shown on Saturday. Nancy Owen Nelson announces that vespers will start up again this month.

Martha Bogner thinks we need to have something in the June newsletter about opening the UU church. Stephen said there's been no discussion of the UUA church opening date. No one is meeting in Michigan. Dan Secrest will add the item to the June meeting agenda. We need to have policies for online meeting continuation. We will also need to add discussions on budget. Jody Wise suggested the chair committee will meet on this and report at the June meeting.

Amnesty International

Amnesty International is now meeting online. Ruby is putting it in her announcements.

Communication Committee

Kathy Stevens, Dan Secrest, and Glenn Maxwell are now updating the event calendar on the web site. Martha Bogner thinks it should be expanded to include local events that are relevant.

EMEAC

Having board meeting Zoom on Tuesday. Dan Secrest and Dan Hale attending, Steve Curtin hosting the Zoom meeting for the EMEAC BOARD MEETING.

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual meeting is scheduled for two weeks from today on the internet. Nancy Shattuck will track the members attending to determine if there's a quorum. Steve Curtin will host the meeting on Zoom.

Regional Assembly

Steve Curtin, Charles King, Glenn Maxwell, and Kathe Stevens attended the regional assembly, and Kathe submitted a report.

'General Assembly Registration

General assembly will be online only with fee reduced from \$400 to \$150. UU needs to pay Reverend Murray's registration expenses. Martha Bogner moved that the board approve \$150 to cover three delegates, Jody Wise seconded it, and the board unanimously approved.

UUA Annual Program Pledge

The organization asks for amount based on the congregation's number of members. 1st UU Detroit has budgeted the same amount as last year.

Closing words from Rev. Murray. Just as Darwin and Newton, Einstein and Hawkins . . . so may you behold the world with spirit and amazement, pruning, composing, and growing so you may bear fruit.

Dan Secrest adjourned the meeting at 2:00 pm.