

UU Detroit Board Meeting Minutes

for December 19, 2021, 1:00 - 2:21pm

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
Dan Secrest, Immediate Past President
Reverend Dr. Stephen Butler Murray
Steven Curtin, Trustee
Eric Gardner, Trustee
Jody Wise, Trustee
Dan Wiest, Trustee
Andrea Esu, Trustee
Nancy Shattuck, Secretary

There was a quorum

Review Minutes and Today's Agenda.

- November 2021 Minutes will be reviewed at the January meeting.

Minister's Report

- He has given his sermon list to the worship committee. We are about a month ahead looking for guest speakers, and he thanked the worship committee for that.

- He will give the Christmas eve service this Friday.

President's Report

- Scott Lehto thanked each individual on the board for the work that they are putting into the church as people shift responsibilities with the new hybrid services, the wonderful sermon on Dickens, and the technical team.
- Scott Lehto reported that he and Suzanne Baker are looking at grants right now grants for membership, big grants for building maintenance and grants for electronics.
- Thanksgiving and hot chocolate and cookies events went well. Scott commented that using the church kitchen made it go easier.
- Membership committee concerns are number one. The committee is down to two people and they need support. They need a large group of people to Canvaas.
- January 15 is the retreat date, and we are having it on ZOOM. 9:00-3:00 PM. We need to talk about financing. We need to consider who will be invited to the retreat. For one, he wants to invite the chairs of the committee joint group. Then he wants to ask the congregation if they want to be included in a retreat. We can open it up them.
- Scott Lehto has given the worship leader to Dave Valliencourt for Christmas Eve. There are no coordinators, just leaders.

Round Table on COVID

- Ideas expressed are that COVID is here to stay, and Omicron is here to stay. People are feeling comfortable in the church.
- Answering concerns about Reverend Murray taking off his mask when he's speaking were met with a discussion of whether Eric should keep his on and whether the worship leader should wear one. It's thought that with the fans and high ceiling space, speakers should feel safe to take off their masks. Eric should keep his mask on as singing is different.
- The hybrid services are working well for now and Steven wants to put up theatre lighting. He is putting together a proposal for that. Dan Secrest is getting the pan camera fixed for next week. Suzanne Baker will look for the exact grant.
- The board voted unanimously to continue the hybrid services for this month.

General Business

Prentis Lot Contract

Mark Tade presented the changes that he made to the Prentis Lot Contract after reviewing it. He said the new lease is much the same as the previous lease, but he updated it where necessary.

- In NOTICES: He added eMail to the communication to post notices.
- In USE: He added a paragraph to allow 1stUU to use the lot Christmas eve, and the right to use the parking lot in common with the tenant for special events. He added we must give them 5-day written eMail notification before the event.

- In TERM: The lease was previously 7 years, he is proposing 5 years.
- In RENT, he projected 4% increase over the five years. Motor City and Cass Café met with Mark and one immediately objected to it and one approved it.
- No changes to insurance or indemnification.
- TAXES: He is eliminating language about City of Detroit revoking real property taxes.
- In UTILITIES: We have been paying them but the contract says they should be paying it. That might help with bargaining. The tenant has been maintaining the lot.
- In ASSIGNMENT: The old contract states the tenant could not sublet the property. We learned that they had been doing this. It is to our advantage to let them do that. Provided that any tenant cannot sublet responsibility. It's all on them. They have to notify the tenants.
- In TERMINATION: We can terminate with 60 days' notice and they can terminate with 60 days' notice.
- Dan Secrest moved to present the lease as written, submit it to tenants for review on behalf of the church and to allow Mark Tade to sign the lease. If tenants want to haggle, the board gives Mark Tade authority to negotiate changes. Dan Wiest seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Finance

Dan Wiest shared that we had good month with pledges but didn't receive the Prentiss lot rent for November. There were no expenses. The bottom line is we have surplus income, and it would have been more if we'd gotten the rent for parking lot.

Adjourn

Reverend Murray closed with words about staying our path.
Scott Lehto adjourned the meeting at 2:21 PM.

Next meeting: 16 January 2022