

MINUTES
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
First Unitarian Universalist Church
April 10, 2013

Organizing Principle: First Unitarian Universalist Church is an urban center for spiritual renewal and social justice in Detroit.

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on April 10, 2013. President Sally Borden called the meeting to order at 7:09pm and the Board read aloud together: "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 were Sally Borden (President), Cynthia Zurschmiede (Vice-President), Dan Wiest (Treasurer), Kathe Stevens (Secretary), Marsha Bruhn, Sean McAde, Sandra Thottakath, and guest Lorraine Weber of Seventh Generation. Marilyn Mitchell (Past President) and Danny Rebb were excused. There was a quorum.

Minister's Report: Rev. Mohr opened the meeting by noting that things are going well, First Church had a very successful fundraiser for the organ. Attendance is well above average, nearly a 10-year high, with membership growing. Rev. Mohr noted a couple of pastoral concerns.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the previous meeting having been distributed and reviewed, it was *moved by Marsha Bruhn, seconded by Dan Wiest, to approve the minutes from the March 13, 2013 meeting as presented; passed unanimously.*

Special Presentation: Lorraine Weber of Seventh Generation was introduced by Rev. Mohr. Informational packets on Seventh Generation, which serves children in the foster care system and is supported by the Detroit Bar Association, were distributed. Seventh Generation is seeking collaborations with faith-based communities. Sally thanked Lorraine for the information and presentation.

Treasurer's Report: Dan Wiest presented a written financial report accompanied by a profit and loss statement for March 2013 and balance sheet as of March 31, 2013. Dan summarized a few items in his written report. The very high percentage of budget under office expenses is due to excessive copying costs. Sally Borden will call RICOH to discuss if we have the right copier for our needs and perhaps renegotiate the contract. A special budget meeting will need to convene before the annual meeting.

Committee/Program Reports: A written report on Development/PR was provided by Kathe Stevens.

Old Business:

Annual Meeting: Sally explained the process outlined in the bylaws for announcing the annual meeting to the Congregation. Rev. Mohr will be an *ex officio* member of the Nominating Committee in the future.

Report of Sub-Committee on Bylaws: Sally Borden, Sean McAde and Rev. Mohr explained proposed changes to the bylaws. Basically the changes involving removing term limits for the secretary and

treasurer, who will serve at the will of the Board, and returns trustee positions to two 1-year and two 2-year terms, to be voted in alternating years.

Archives: Sally reported that she has signed the agreement to donate First Church's archives as approved by the Board at the March meeting, and Leonard Coombs has removed the 55 cubic feet of archives to the University of Michigan's Bentley Historical Library. Sally circulated a letter from Mr. Coombs expressing his appreciation for the donation of First Church's archives.

Salem, Massachusetts, First Universalist Church: Sally reported that she received an email from the President of the Salem, Massachusetts, First Universalist Church requesting a copy of the Request for Proposals used to donate First Church's buildings. Sally sent the RFP and FUC is reviewing to consider donation of its buildings. Rev. Mohr advised that our process is of interest to the Unitarian-Universalist Association.

Member Recognition: Cynthia Zurschmiede and Kathe Stevens reported that a ceremony will be held on May 12 at the end of the service to recognize both long-time and new members who have made consistent contributions to First Church. Rev. Mohr noted that May 12 is also a new member Sunday, which is a good fit to build on the successes of the Congregation going into the annual meeting.

Skinner Organ Fundraiser: The amount raised at the April 6 benefit concert for repairs to our Skinner organ was \$2,804. After lengthy discussion, including a suggestion that a written process for use of the building be instituted rather than one-on-one negotiations, it was moved by Kathe Stevens, seconded by Dan Wiest, that \$200 be donated to EMEAC for use of the sanctuary, Commons and kitchen for the organ fundraiser; approved with one abstention. Kathe will compose a letter explaining the Board's deliberations to arrive at the \$200 figure and circulate the letter to the Board for comments.

EMEAC Transition Task Force: Minutes from a March 26 meeting of the EMEAC/First UU Transition Team were distributed to the Board. Dan Wiest reviewed the minutes, which included a review of responsibility for costs, with a suggestion that the process be documented for ready access, room rental fees, the sign at Cass and Forest, incipient Commons meetings, the Prentis lot and a campaign for new windows. The Board agreed that it is critically important to preserve some use of the sign for First Church because many visitors have reported that they have come to service after seeing the sermon topic posted on the sign.

Prentis Parking Lot: First Church is paying insurance for the lot. Dan Wiest will provide information to the Board about the cost of the insurance and coverage. A lengthy discussion on whether to present a proposal to sell the Prentis lot to the Congregation at the May 19 annual meeting ensued. The Board's consensus was that it is critical to provide background information to the Congregation. It is imperative that the Board find out how much would it cost to improve the lot, costs to manage and maintain it, what new signage would cost, etc. , before taking the issue to the Congregation. Sally will contact EMEAC to advise that the Board will provide answers in three months. Several Board members agreed to tasks: Dan will obtain contact information regarding past maintenance of the lot; Sean, Kathe and Marsha will look into management issues.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathe Stevens, Governing Board Secretary