

MINUTES
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit
Whole Foods Community Room, 115 Mack Ave, Detroit, MI 48201
December 10, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on December 10, 2014. Present were President, Marsha Bruhn; Vice President, Danny Rebb; Immediate Past President, Sally Borden; Secretary, Kathe Stevens; Treasurer, Dan Wiest; Trustees-at-Large, Joel Batterman, Paul Chislett, Matt Friedrichs and Joan Smykowski; Rev. Roger Mohr, Ex Officio; and guest Tim Bailey (Building & Grounds Committee). President Bruhn called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. There was a quorum of the Board.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: It was **moved** by Kathe Stevens, seconded by Dan Wiest, to adopt the agenda as presented; *approved*.

TREASURER: Bob Lauer reviewed the Operating Budget for the fiscal year ending 06/30/2015 which had been distributed to the board. The transition of the treasurer position from Dan Wiest to Bob will be made in January after the Power Church program is implemented. The calendar year will finish out with the Quicken software in order to smoothly issue W2s and end-of-year payroll.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the previous meeting having been distributed and reviewed, it was **moved** by Kathe Stevens, seconded by Joan Smykowski, to accept the minutes from the November 12, 2014 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees as presented; *approved*.

MINISTERS REPORT: Rev. Mohr summarized his written report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Marsha Bruhn summarized her written report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance – Dan Wiest summarized his written report.

Worship – Danny Rebb submitted a written report.

Fund Development – Matt Friedrichs reported on the Noel Night coffee house. It was a good partnership with the Commons. Matt had agreed with EMEAC that there would be no overt symbols of any religion on Noel Night but it was the consensus of the board that it would be appropriate if any congregant(s) would like to take responsibility to purchase, set up and remove a tree in the sanctuary for our Christmas Eve service.

Buildings & Grounds – Tim Bailey reported on the conversion of the bride's room to a child care room. The next project will be the church office, which needs to be cleaned and organized.

Social Justice – Joel Batterman summarized his written report. Social Justice is hosting two events in the coming year as provided in the 2015 Strategic Plan.

Membership – Joan Smykowski submitted a written report. Joan expects two or three new members to sign the book in the coming weeks.

Welcoming Task Force – Kathe Stevens submitted a written report.

Planning – Kathe Stevens reported on behalf of Deanna McGraw. The Planning Committee is meeting to form a plan to increase membership on committees and will have recommendations for the Board. All committee chairs have received a copy of the Strategic Plan and it is now available on the First Church website. Deanna will help committee chairs determine where they need help and how they are to make quarterly reports in April.

OLD BUSINESS:

Childcare – Sally Borden submitted a written report. The target date to complete background checks on childcare volunteers is January 11; it is anticipated the turnaround will be less than two days. It was **moved** by Dan Wiest, seconded by Danny Rebb, to use Church Mutual for the background checks and to allocate \$50 from the Membership Committee budget to pay for any background checks not covered by donations; *approved*.

Office Administrator – Rev. Mohr, Marsha Bruhn and Kathe Stevens conducted interviews. The Office Administrator position was offered to a candidate conditioned on successful completion of a background check, which Kathe Stevens will process. The candidate has recently had her background checked for another part-time position and, anticipating she will clear our background check as well, it is expected she will start training with Tamara Halliburton on December 21.

Board Liaison Assignments – deferred.

NEW BUSINESS:

UUA Certification of Membership – Marsha Bruhn reviewed an email from the Unitarian-Universalist Association regarding the February 2015 deadline for certification of membership and the Congregational Poll on the proposed Statement of Conscience on Reproductive Justice. The Membership Committee will ensure that the certification of membership is completed. After discussion on the possibilities and difficulties of educating the congregation on the issues and preparing for a congregational vote, it was decided to defer action on the poll to 2016.

Recognition of Tamara Halliburton – The board expressed its appreciation of Tamara Halliburton's three years of service. Money was collected to purchase a gift certificate from Cass Corridog as well as a gift from Pewabic Pottery.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathe Stevens, Governing Board Secretary