

**First Unitarian – Universalist Church of Detroit
Board of Trustees Meeting
April 10, 2006**

Board Members present: Jim Harvey, Dan Wiest, Alicia Biggers, Mary Lou Malone, Carolyn Ludwig, Jim Brown, Lencha Acker, Linda Darga, Irene Schultz, Donna Walker, Rev. Diana Heath.

Guests Present: Dan Kosmowski, Jonathan Schultz, Sr., Glenn Maxwell.

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:44 pm.

2. Future Facilities Task Force (FFTF) Report

In Colleen Dolan Greene's absence, taskforce member Glenn Maxwell gave a comprehensive report on the progress of the group. Several professionals, i.e. appraisers, architects, realtors, etc have toured the premises. There is an organization very interested in buying the Church House, McCollester Hall, and the adjoining parking lot. The organization must get approval from their Board in order to proceed. This should take place by the end of April, 2006. The FFTF will continue on with their work until there is a definite Offer to Purchase.

Glenn said there are 13 members on the FFTF arranged into 6 committees. The Space Committee is in the process of determining the cost to operate and maintain the Sanctuary plus any additional space needed for 1st. U.U.

Mary Lou Malone moved, and Irene Schultz seconded, that :

The Board authorizes the FFTF to engage the services of a realtor experienced with church and commercial properties to determine the best price for our buildings for negotiations with interested buyers. In addition, the Board authorizes the FFTF to pay the out-of-pocket legal expenses necessary to develop a purchase agreement if so needed.

In the discussion following, Jim Brown brought up W.S.U.'s power of eminent domain. The Board felt that due to our property's National, State and City Historical designation that W.S.U.'s influence is only of minimum concern.

The Board acknowledged that the Congregation must be consulted about any decisions to sell the property.

3. Approval of March meeting minutes:

The March 1st UU Board meeting minutes were approved as corrected.

5. Vice-Moderator's Report:

Dan Wiest submitted and discussed in length the Income and Expense Statement for March, 2006. He also gave an in-depth explanation of the new format for future Income and Expense statements, including an Operating Budget – WORKSHEET with Account Level detail for FYE 06/30/2006, which included itemized Personnel Expenses.

The Board scheduled a Budget Workshop for Saturday, April 15, at 1 PM at the church

7. Minister's Report

Rev. Diana Heath confirmed her decision to leave 1st U.U. at the end of her contract. She shared her thoughts and observations about 1st Church with the Board, expressing our need to use a more Business-Like approach in our governance.

The Interim Minister expressed concern that MANY of the opinions and preferences expressed by Board members, as well as members, were based on mis-information Or lack of information. Thus, untested assumptions used in making choices or decisions SHOULD be something the Board watches for, in it's own proposals for solutions.

Proposals and opinions can be checked, as to the extent of fact-based information behind suggestions, as well as sharing fact-based information with the Congregation. Otherwise, the Board might possibly recommend unworkable solutions, and/or the Congregation could continue to feel distanced from the Board, as though the Board was information-holding. She also reminded the Board that the Congregation was not yet ready to call a settled minister, and that First Church's poor reputation regarding dealing with ministers needs to be addressed, so that the Congregation learns to adopt a much more workable relationship with ministers.

The Interim Minister reported that it was time for the yearly AIM meeting, which would be in Ellensburg, Fla this year. She will be gone from Sunday evening until Monday, April 24.

Reverend Diana Heath recognized Dan Wiest's excellent work on preparing a readable Treasurer's Report, a readable Proposed Budget and his assistance in data-gathering for future canvass and operating budget proposals.

8. Moderator's Report

Jim Harvey submitted his April Moderator's report and then commented on the year, where we started, where we are ending up, and the future ahead. He highlighted our significant achievements. He stated the need for an Interim Minister, and said he spoke with the District Executive, Lisa Presley in regards to an application for an Interim Minister.

9. Interim Minister for 2006-07

Jim Harvey discussed the process for attaining an Interim Minister. After considerable discussion on the process, Lencha Acker moved, and Alicia Biggers seconded that an Interim Ministerial Committee be appointed. Motion passed unanimously. Chosen to serve on the committee are Jim Brown, Linda Darga, Mary Lou Malone, Irene Schultz and Jim Harvey. They are to complete application for Interim Minister by April 15, 2006. They will meet in the very near future due to the need to move quickly.

Mary Lou Malone stated the need to have both an Interim and a Settled Minister begin in the month of August as opposed to September. The Board agreed.

10. Canvass Report

Mary Lou updated the Board on Canvass progress. She said the outlook is very encouraging, and that so far \$87,000 has been pledged with a goal of \$101,000 minimum.

12. Purchase of Computer for Minister

The Board determined that it would be best to purchase a new computer package and that it should have Microsoft Office as part of software.

Irene Schultz moved and Lencha Acker seconded to authorize Dan Wiest to purchase a computer package for the sum of no more than \$500.00 Motion passed unanimously.

13. New Business

It was brought to the attention of the Board that a gentleman who attends 1st U.U. regularly, but is not a member, has been making inappropriate sexual comments to especially the older women in our Congregation. The Board decided to have Dan Wiest speak to him about such inappropriate talk, informing him that he is to stop it immediately or he will be asked not to return.

14. Old Business None.

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Donna Walker
Board Secretary

