

First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit
May, 2006 Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2006

Present: James Harvey, Colleen Dolan-Greene, Reverend Diana Heath, Jacquelyn McNaughton, Mary Lou Lou Malone, Jim Brown, Alicia Biggers, Lorenza Acker, Dan Wiest, Carolyn Ludwig, Donna Walker

Guests: Lee Thume, Margaret Beck, Andee Seeger, Rose Labolle, Sally Borden, Len Zettel, Faye Colling Carol Bendure, Mark Bendure, Danielle Troia, Janet Thompson

Meeting called to order by Jim Harvey at 6:36 pm

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve April minutes made by Alicia Biggers, seconded by Jim Brown. Motion passed.

3a Future Facilities Taskforce Report (FFTF)

Glenn Maxwell presented flow charts on steps that must be taken to sell Church property. It has been determined that the Church House and Social Hall (a.k.a. McColleston Hall) must be sold in order for 1st UU Church to be financially viable.

Glenn stated that they are working with the Michigan A.C.L.U. as a possible buyer, but will proceed to put the Church House with accompanying Social Hall and parking lot(s) on the market for sale, but keep the Sanctuary.

Glenn discussed 3 options for space in addition to the Sanctuary:

Point was made of need to be handicapped accessible.

Donna Walker questioned the need for a realtor, recommended a FOR SALE sign be put on the lawn, and stated the need to update the Congregation on plans to sell buildings.

Jackie McNaughton commented on need to update Congregations about intentions to sell some of the Church property.

The next meeting of the FFTF is May 24, 2006

Vice-Moderator Report

Dan Wiest presented the Income & Expense Statement for April, 2006 – Income in the black. He discussed the proposed 2006-2007 Budget, stating that it's not accurate to call it a balanced budget because it is a Trust-supplemented budget. Dan stated that \$77,000 was approved to be transferred from the Trust, but so far only \$38,000 was taken. Dan stated that the minister's pension allotment and health benefits need to be paid. Reverend Diana Heath stated that the interest on the pension allotment needs to be paid also.

Jim Harvey recommended that \$ amounts for pension and health benefits along with \$ amounts needed by Bldg and Grounds be gathered and transferred from Trust.

Alicia Biggers moved to submit the recommended 2006-07 Budget to Congregation Sunday for approval. Jim Brown seconded. Motion Passed unanimously.

Lencha Acker recommended that attorney Marilyn Mitchell be informed about items in Budget that are to be covered by the Trust. (Note: Lencha Acker stated that Irene Schultz requested that she inform the Board that Irene votes No on the Budget recommendation.)

Congregational Meeting

In addition to submitting the Budget to the Congregation for adoption, the issue of By-Laws adoption was discussed, and the need to elect officers, trustees and committee members. Mary Lou Malone stated that, using the current By-Laws, 12 positions have yet to be filled by the nominating committee.

Alicia Biggers moved that the Congregation be asked to vote on one section of the proposed By-Laws, changing Article 8, section 1 of the old by-laws to Section 2, Article 5 of the new By-Laws. Jim Brown seconded, motion passed unanimously.

The congregation would then proceed to elect persons to the various Church positions, following nominations. Sally Borden shared information about the proposed By-Laws. She explained that any newly proposed By-Laws could not be voted on at the May 21 Congregational meeting due to procedural requirements

Re Committee

Jim Harvey discussed the need for short- term and long- term solutions for the Religious Education program, and also the need to hire a new RE director.

Reverend Diana Heath shared with the Board her unsuccessful efforts to arrange a meeting with Margaret Wilke, the RE Committee Chair and other RE committee members. Several e-mails were sent by Rev. Heath to the R.E. Committee.

Trustee Lorenza Acker stated to the A.I.M. that in her opinion the E-mail sent to the R.E. Chair was unprofessional and provocative.

Reverend Diana Heath stated she will send Lorenza Acker's remarks to the U.U.A. and instructed Lorenza to give the charge, in writing, to Donna Walker for submittal to Reverend Heath.

Jim Harvey requested that a date be set for an RE committee meeting, and asked board members to volunteer to attend and as well as others.. A meeting date was set for Monday, May 22, 2006 7 pm. UU members to be present :Jackie McNaughton, Jim Harvey, Carolyn Ludwig, Janet Thompson, Alicia Biggers, Danielle Troia, Mary Catherine O'Neal, and Reverend Diana Heath. Margaret Wilke will be notified of meeting date.

Worship Committee:

Lencha expressed an interest in meeting with Reverend Heath for her input/counsel for upcoming Summer services. Diana stated that her service with 1st UU ends May 31, followed by her vacation. She will be able to lead the "Bridging" Service, Sunday, June 4, but will not be available after that. She will be able to share her ideas with Lencha by telephone.

Jim Harvey will e-mail the Worship Committee about an upcoming meeting, June ?

Lencha remarked that she believes that the Congregation deserves an explanation about the R.E. director's dismissal. Jim Harvey, Alicia Biggers and other members of the Board felt that it being a Personnel matter, it would be best not discussed at this time due to legal concerns.

Lencha expressed her concerns about the need for communication within 1st UU.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Walker
Board Secretary.