

First Unitarian –Universalist Church of Detroit
Board of Trustees
October 9, 2006 Board Meeting Minutes

Present: Linda Darga, Jim Harvey, Lencha Acker, Mary Lou Malone, Jim Brown, Earl Harvey, Charlene Evans, Irene Schultz, Sally Borden, Dan Wiest, Alicia Biggers, Donna Walker
Guests: Alma King

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Linda Darga at 6:37 pm.

1. Meeting Agenda

Accepted as amended

2. Approval of September, 2006 Board Minutes

Minutes were approved as amended.

3. Treasurer's Report

Dan Wiest distributed and reviewed the September, 2006 Income Statement. He noted that pledge contributions were behind those of September, 2005. Sally recommended putting a notice in the Church newsletter for members to please make pledged contributions.

Dan Wiest reported on the health insurance policies available to U.U. employees who meet the requirements. There is a standard deductible policy and a high deductible policy. Dan will check on the staff's eligibility for Medicare, which will effect the cost of the health insurance.

Earl Harvey moved, and Jim Brown seconded, to accept the Treasurer's Report.

4. Interim Minister Committee Report

Mary Lou reported that the Committee has a recommendation for an Interim Minister who is available to start in December, 2006. The prospective minister was interviewed by telephone. He or she is a U.U. ordained minister but not a certified A.I.M. His (her) identity cannot be revealed but s/he has Urban Church experience.

Dan Wiest moved, and Sally Borden seconded, that the Board supports the Interim Minister Committee and recommends the Committee proceed in securing the candidate for the position. Motion passed.

5. Andee Seeger's request for Holiday Sales Table

Andee Seeger is seeking approval for a holiday sales table for Noel Night and Sundays with proceeds going to 1st UU. Irene Schultz volunteers to coordinate vendors for Noel Night. Board members stated the need for certain requirements, including the need to leave the building by the designated time, take all items with her or leave them out in McCollester Hall overnight, and donate only money to the Church, no products. Irene also wants a Vendor Table.

Dan Wiest moved that Irene Schultz coordinate vendor tables for Noel Night and Sundays through December, 2006. Motion passed.

6. Constitution and By-Laws Committee

Sally Borden reported that the By-Laws and Constitution changes are ready to be presented to the Congregation and requested the Board determine the dates for the informational meeting, and for the voting. She recommended the informational meeting be held in November or December, 2006.

Following a straw vote, the consensus of the Board was to hold the meetings A.S.A.P.

7. Approval of contracts for Music Director and Choir Director

Jim Harvey discussed both contracts with the Board members. He suggested a change to the passage “absences will imply forfeiture of compensation..” Jim Harvey moved to amend the passage present in both contracts to read “absences will result in forfeiture of compensation for services missed. Charlene Evans seconded . Motion passed.

Lencha Acker moved, and Earl Harvey seconded, to contract with Todd Ballou and Gwen Foss with the contracts as presented (and amended.) Motion passed.

8. Religious Education Committee

Three job descriptions for Interim R.E. Director (Athena Kolb) were presented to the Board, a 5 hour , a 12 hour, and a 20 hour per week contract. A lengthy discussion followed. No action was taken. It was also reported that the R.E. Committee is searching for a permanent R.E. Director.

The Board recommended that members from the R.E. Committee attend the Nov., 2006 Board meeting.

9. Heartland Fair Share Contribution: Approval necessary

Dan Wiest informed the Board that Heartland annual dues are \$617 and U.U.A. annual dues are \$1700. Our fairshare is a minimum of 25%. Jim Brown moved to support Dan Wiest’s recommendation that we pay Heartland District dues one month, and the U.U.A. dues the next month. Motion passed.

10. Security

A. New proposals

Dan Kosmowski submitted a memo which included security updates and proposals for additional security measures to increase the safety of 1st UU members and staff. Dan and his father installed lighting along the alley, donating the labor, which amounted to an \$800 savings. The supplies cost \$75. Dan proposed McCollester Hall window guards, custom-made to hold down costs, be installed. A welder would have to be employed. Dan recommended \$372 be budgeted for the project. Dan also proposed upgrading the Alarm System, which will cost \$2980.

Dan Wiest moved to accept the Security proposal submitted by Dan Kosmowski. Motion passed.

B. Meeting with Custodian

Linda Darga met with custodian, Joe Brimmer. He will follow the checklist of doors to physically check. It was suggested that Joe document the doors he checks as he leaves.

It was clarified that Moderator Linda Darga is the supervisor of the Church staff. Dan should communicate with Linda about Staff issues.

11. Moving Forward

Linda Darga expressed the need for professional help to deal with Congregational problems.

Sally Borden recommended that social workers in the Congregation serve as leaders, counselors, and facilitators for this task.

Board members shared what they felt needs to be done , and also shared their feelings on the entire matter.

Jim Harvey wrote a letter to the appropriate UUA department, sorting out what is owed to Reverend Diana Heath. He believes Mr. Prada is representing Reverend Heath.

12. Adjournment

At 9:28 pm Dan Wiest moved to adjourn. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Walker, Board Secretary

