

**First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit**  
**April Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**April 9, 2007**

**Present:** Linda Darga, Jim Harvey, Lencha Acker, Irene Schultz, Rev. Drew Johnston, Alicia Biggers  
Dan Wiest, Donna Walker,  
**Guests:** Kathe Stevens, Jim Robinson, Sharlene Gage, Ivan Cottman, Marilyn Mitchell, Mary O’Neill,  
Margaret Wilke, Carolyn Ludwig

The Meeting was called to order by Board President Linda Darga at 6:35 PM.

**2 Review and Approve Agenda.**

The agenda was approved as modified.

**3. Approval of Minutes from March Board meeting.**

Alicia moved to accept March Board meeting minutes. Dan seconded. Motion passed.

**4. Settled Minister Search Committee Report.**

The committee submitted a written memorandum and Dr. James Robinson gave an oral report. He reviewed the activities of the committee stating that there is a shortage of ministers seeking Urban settlements. On behalf of the committee, Dr. Robinson stated that they have fulfilled their obligations and are concluding their activities.

Dan Wiest moved to thank the committee for their very fine work. Lencha Acker seconded. Motion passed.

Alicia Biggers moved extend the interim, (possibly consulting), ministry of Rev. Drew Johnston an additional two years.. provided the UUA grants approval. Jim Harvey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**5. Beyond Categorical Thinking**

Alicia Biggers moved that the Welcoming Congregation Workgroup initiate getting the **Beyond Categorical Thinking** program for a long weekend and the pilot program, **Beyond Racism – Building the World We Dream About**, for a long weekend. Dan Wiest seconded. Motion passed.

**6. Treasurer’s Report**

Dan Wiest reviewed the March, 2007 Income and Expense statement, highlighting that \$8,000 more was spent than was received, and that the March’07 gas bill was \$3,000+.

Dan said that the Women’s Alliance has a new account and Eiko and he are the signers. The Memorial Fund Account is separate and is with Chase Bank.

Dan informed the Board that more money will have to be advanced from the Trust.

Alicia Biggers moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Jim Harvey seconded. Motion passed.

The Board determined that the Board’s Budget meeting for the new fiscal year will be held on April 25<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 pm and the Congregational budget hearing will be held on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

**7. Housing SDS students.**

Carmen Mendoza –King asked the Board if 1<sup>st</sup> UU would provide housing for the SDS students in town for a national convention July 27 – 31. The convention is being held at W.S.U. Dan Wiest will look investigate the details.

## **8. Committee Reports**

### **R.E. Committee**

New co-chairpersons are Mary O'Neall and Carolyn Ludwig

Mary O'Neal discussed fundraising efforts for their June Pilgrimage to Boston, MA.

Irene Schultz moved to allow R.E. group have a vendor table during Coffee Hour for Boston trip fundraising. Lencha Acker seconded. Motion passed.

Mary O'Neall said that background checks and driving record checks will be made for adults going on trip. A UUA packet for the Boston trip can be obtained on-line.

Irene Schultz moved that Athena Kolb's contract, under the current terms, be extended through September 1, 2007, with the possibility of additional extensions. Alicia Biggers seconded. Motion passed.

### **Membership Committee**

A written report was submitted by Sally Borden. Sally asked if there is a budget for the Committee because she needs money for new badges.

Jim Harvey moved that \$150 be allocated for Membership, to buy materials to make up new and improved name tags. Alicia Biggers seconded. Motion passed.

### **Social Justice Group**

Alicia Biggers submitted a written report.

Alicia moved that the two groups, M.O.S.E.S. and the Michigan U.U. Social Justice Action Network take over the 1<sup>st</sup> floor Bulletin Board. Dan Wiest seconded. Motion passed.

## **9. Reverend Johnston's Report**

Rev. Drew presented a long range strategic planning flow chart. He stated that policies are unknown and that 1<sup>st</sup> UU needs to compile and publish a Policy Manual. He stated that 1<sup>st</sup> UU needs a policy managing Board that empowers others to do tasks and that the Board's job is to empower others.

Rev. Drew stated the need for a Ministry Advisory panel. He also stated that the 1st UU buildings are unsafe and risky and as the fiduciary, the Board is responsible. He discussed money for building needs, the Trust fund and endowments.

Rev. Drew discussed 1<sup>st</sup> UU's relationship to the staff and need to alter and improve.

The formation of the Mission Group was discussed, with Drew stating his wish to draw from a more diverse pool. Alicia Biggers gave the names of the persons who volunteered for committee.

## **10. FFTF Report**

A written report of the Future Facilities Task Force was submitted by Colleen Dolan-Greene.

## **11. Approve a Communication Task Force**

It was determined that the Task Force will consist of Jim Harvey, Sally Borden, Alicia Biggers, and Reverend Drew.

## **12. Report from 2007 Canvass Chair**

Chair person Alicia Biggers reported that committee was ramping into the final weeks, with more than half the pledges yet to be reported in. She said she is documenting the procedures in order to create a Canvass Procedure Manual. She stated that there is a need for a budget with which to work.

**13. President's Report**

A written report was submitted by Linda Darga. She discussed the status of the plans for the Special Service to honor Dan Kosmowski. Earl Harvey will ask Dan about his availability. Linda explained that the theme will be "Hall of Famers", recognizing a few each Sunday.

**14. Nominating Committee**

Nora Holt, Carolyn Ludwig and Mary Lou Malone are on the committee. Alma King and Neal Hunt have resigned. There is a need for two more members. Possible candidates are:

Tre Greene, Ivan Cottman, Rhonda Rogers, Al Acker and Dan Secrest.

Mary Lou Malone is to convene the committee.

**15. Rental/Room Use procedures review**

The Board discussed the \$13 a square foot per year rental charge. Rev. Drew suggested that the Square Foot charge be reconsidered, and a more flexible charge be established.

Mary Lou Malone is the contact person for rentals.

**16. Room Rental request from Patricia Pilafian**

Patricia Pilafian stated in a written request that the Four Oclave Club has been renting a room at 1st UU at a rate of \$50 for a.m. and \$90 for p.m. She said they could not afford the new rates of \$75 for mornings and \$120 for evenings. She requested the rates remain the same.

The Board suggested that Mary Lou Malone be contacted, and recommend to her that the morning rate for the room rental be \$55 and the evening rate stay at \$90.

**17. Adjournment**

At 9:45 pm, Irene Schultz moved that the meeting be adjourned. Dan Wiest seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Walker  
Board Secretary