

First Unitarian-Universalist Church
May , 2007 Board of Trustees Meeting
May 14, 2007

Present: Linda Darga, Jim Harvey, Lencha Acker, Irene Schultz, Rev. Drew Johnston, Alicia Biggers
Sally Borden
Excused Absence: Dan Wiest

Meeting was called to order by Linda Darga at 6:42 pm.

2. Agenda

Agenda approved as modified

3. Approval of April, 2007 Board Minutes

Irene Schultz moved to approve the April, 2007 Board Meeting minutes. Alicia Biggers seconded. Motion passed.

4. Treasurer's Report

There was \$2,000 more in expenses than income for the month of April.

Alicia Biggers moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Sally Borden seconded. Motion passed.

5. Rev. Johnston's Report

Rev. Drew reported that Dan Kosmowski has moved and will be thanked for his years of service with a plaque and card.

The issue of keys to the building was discussed, (no key to "blue door", etc). Suggestions were made for solutions to the key/lock problems. If keys are needed, call Rev. Drew or Wendi.

Rev. Drew commented that we need to prepare for new renters, and that Peter McAlpine will make a pipe repair on the boiler to facilitate use.

Rev. Drew spoke about the issue of communication: triangulation and gossip. Gossip causes problems. It's more honorable and healthy to talk to the person directly. Talk to each other, not about each other. Hold each other lovingly accountable.

5 b Rev. John Weston's Letter

A letter was sent by the Rev. Dr. John H. Weston to Board President Linda Darga. It suggests modifying the Interim Minister's contract. It suggests annulling the original contract and having Rev. Drew retained as a "consulting" minister.

Rev. Drew stated that he feels his is a "transitional" rather than a "status quo" ministry, and that further discussion is needed, perhaps at the Congregational Meeting.

Lencha Acker moved to "reconstitute" the present contract as suggested by Rev. Weston . Irene Schultz seconded. Motion passed.

6. Housing S.D.S.

Dan Wiest submitted a memo recommending that the Board allow S.D.S. members to board and bunk at 1st U.U. from Thursday, July 27 through Tuesday, July 31, 2007.

Lencha will explore youth guidelines for their presence at 1st UU.

Alicia Biggers moved to allow S.D.S. members to board and bunk at 1st UU from July 27, 2007 through July 31, 2007. Lencha Acker seconded. Motion passed.

7. Committee Reports**b. Social Action Committee**

Alicia Biggers submitted a full written report. Her report included comments on:

Faith in Democracy - Ponella Hardy of M.O.S.E.S. will offer a service on this program.

Recycling boxes for paper, etc.

Viola Liuzzo exhibit (which was great.)

Fair Trade coffee will be served from now on at Coffee Hour. Money to go for R.E. films?

c. Membership

Sally Borden reported that all new members have been welcomed and canvassed. Many have pledged. Follow-up is needed to help retain new members.

Sally also discussed sending/signing of cards to ailing/infirm members.

d. Communications Taskforce

Members, S. Borden, A Biggers, and Rev. Drew would like the Board to back the Membership Committee to grow the Church, in gathering resources for Church projects, needs, tasks, etc.

“Creative linking-up” has been suggested by Lencha Acker because people need to know where to go for help/information.

Alicia moved that the various boards/committees give information to the Congregation on actions taken. Motion passed.

e. Mission Task Force

Alicia Biggers reported that a Sunday insert suggested that the Task Force solidify the preamble into a real mission statement.

f. Worship Committee

Lencha Acker reported that the Summer services will be from June 24 through Sept. 2.

June 3rd, 2007 will be for honoring volunteers.

June 10th, 2007 is a service to honor Eiko Takemoto.

9. Reformed Finance Committee

1st UU members Bob Lauer, Sharlene Gage, and Bill McKnight were asked to serve on committee.

Alicia Biggers moved that the following charges/tasks of the committee be approved:

support the Treasurer in finance management of 1st UU Church.

review, refine and clarify reports and statements

assist with financial projections and internal controls.

review and make recommendations to the Board regarding policies, budgets, controls to long-range plans.

maintain and modernize bookkeeping and money-handling procedures.

10. Margaret Beck Coffee Hour sales table for May 20.

Problems with having a sales table were discussed. Margaret was granted a sales table for May 20, 2007 Coffee Hour.

11. Report from 2007 Canvass Chair

Alicia Biggers reported that \$92,276 was pledged. Average pledge equals \$1,060. 80% of goal was reached. She will give a line-by-line breakdown in the future.

12. Proposal to audit Trust.

Following a discussion about the problems with the relationship between the Church and the current Trust, Jim Harvey moved that the Church Trust consider and investigate a methodology for devolving its authority and transferring the assets of the Trust to an Endowment of First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit. This is done so as to recognize the ability of the Church to move forward in a unified way and maximize the potential for bequests rather than using the bifurcated process which exists currently. It is expected that the Trust will provide a preliminary report to the Board regarding its response to the Board's proposal by the time of the June Board meeting. Lencha Acker seconded. Motion passed.

The Board discussed extensively the charge of the Future Facilities TaskForce (FFTF). Differing opinions were expressed and there is a need to clarify. It was determined that this issue is clearly important and needs to be thoroughly explored for long-range planning.

Motion made by Lencha Axker. Perhaps the FFTF charge needs to be re-considered and presented to the Congregation. A communiqué and/or a revision seems to be called for.

Linda Darga called for an FFTF report to be presented at the Annual Meeting.

13. Rental/room use procedures

Jim Harvey presented a written report. Rev. Drew, Mary Lou Malone , Wendi Winston and Jim Harvey met to discuss fees for rental usage. The issue of the Four Octave Club was resolved.

The rentals will have to be handled case by case on an individual basis, with the \$13 per square foot not being applied. The group will meet periodically and make a report to the Board.

14. Status of Inviting "Beyond Categorical Thinking to our Church

Linda Darga said there are time restraints and this will have to be delayed until the Fall.

15. Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be called and then postponed until the early part of June, 2007.

At the Annual Meeting there will be officer elections, approval of Budget and the receiving of Annual Reports.

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Donna Walker/ E.S.
Board Secretary