



Board Meeting – Oct. 17, 2018

Our Mission: To be a compassionate, welcoming community that nurtures spiritual growth and practices justice.

Meeting Minutes

Board: Gail Bishop, President; Ann Hutton, Vice President; Greg Turosak, Secretary; Rob Harveland, Treasurer; Charyssa Cobb, Kim Reid, Jessica Hoffman, Dave Siljenberg and Joe Lobl, Members at Large; Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer, ex officio

Absent: Ann Hutton, Vice President; Charyssa Cobb, Joe Lobl and Jessica Hoffman (resigned since last meeting), Members at Large

1. **Call to Order and Chalice Lighting:** Gail called the meeting to order. Greg provided words for reflection and Dave lit the chalice.
2. **Consent Agenda: Motion** by Dave, second by Rob to accept the consent agenda including the agenda (with additions) and September 2018 minutes. Approved.
3. **Voting items.**
 - a. **Directory use policy.** Gail explained this situation. Rev. Luke suggested there could be a statement in the directory explaining its use, and also the separate policy. This seemed to meet the board's consensus and was determined not to be a voting item. The disposition is that the wording in the directory will be: "The Directory of Members and Friends is intended for personal and Church use by the Congregants listed in it. The Directory may not be sold, rented, or borrowed for mailing lists, or used for solicitation/marketing purposes." The language in the policy reads exactly the same, with the additional wording: "... without permission of the Board of directors of First Unitarian Universalist Church."
 - b. **Non-Corporate Resolution.** This item was to pass a resolution bringing up-to-date the names of those authorized to do business for the church and sign documents with Wells Fargo. Motion by Kim, second by Dave. Approved.
4. **Financial update.** Rob reported income ahead of plan and expenses below plan. He said that as long as we keep income ahead, we're in good shape. The biggest expense was to Custom Alarm for fire and smoke alarm system. Rob also initiated discussion of the youth trip to Boston in 2019 and the need to raise money. No board objection to including items in the annual church auction to help in the youth trip fund-raising.
5. **Minister's report.** Rev. Luke provided a staffing transition update with Jody Tharp's imminent departure and Erika Fetterman's arrival as a new administrator. He said the transition is going well, with a number of people pitching in to help out. Rev. Luke also reported good quantitative measure, with Religious Education attendance, RE teachers, Chalice Group participation and Sunday attendance all tracking ahead of last year. He also reported strong participation in Walden Hill Wednesdays, with between 82 and 100 people attending each of the first five Wednesdays.
6. **Old business.**

- a. **First listening session.** Gail reported that the “core” of the congregation was in attendance, skewing to an older demographic. Gail said there was a suggestion of a different/additional Google survey. She also suggested a Zoom meeting or meetings with younger parents. The next listening session will be in January. Rev. Luke explained the church touring team, in which several members of our congregation will visit other UU churches to see what they have done with their buildings. Kim suggested that visuals would be important to see what other churches have done.
 - b. **Sanctuary update.** With work having taken place on the smoke/fire alarm project, work is to proceed soon on improvements to the conference room. Meantime, Gail reported, training of people who will be involved in supporting the sanctuary effort has taken place.
 - c. **Safe congregation emergency procedure recommendations.** Dave had provided the board with a draft of evacuation and storm shelter procedures. Some discussion of reciprocal evacuation agreements. Rev. Luke said he would be willing to reach out to the neighboring Jehovah’s Witnesses and that he was worked with the UCC church and can reach out there as well. Gail suggested approving the recommendations as a working draft, with final action to occur by year’s end. Upon motion by Kim, second by Greg, this was approved.
 - d. **Fee schedule.** Gail recounted that last year the board modified building use fees. Still, the Girl Scouts deemed the required deposit too large and moved to another church. Discussion regarded creating flexible language to provide that fees may be waived in certain cases. Gail said language would be brought for the board to consider at the next meeting.
7. New business.
- a. **Honorary and youth membership.** Gail said we don’t have any guidelines. Youth can join at age 16, but there’s no obligation to pledge. Rev. Luke said the UU Association is moving toward an annual % basis for regional and national dues, rather than basing on number of members. This will occur within a year or two. Gail suggested putting this issue on hold for now.
 - b. **Stewardship pledge drive goals and board responsibilities.** Gail indicated that next month, stewardship chair Amy Nelson will come to the board to speak about the upcoming drive.
 - c. **Board to-do list.** Dave explained an idea that he has to make the board to-do list part of a handbook that would provide board members with information that the need to know. No action taken.
 - d. **Board vacancy.** Board member Jessica Hoffman has resigned. Gail said the board can appoint a replacement member. Gail asked that board members be thinking of someone suitable, and she suggested giving consideration to someone with a connection to Religious Education.
 - e. **Date of next board meeting.** With the third Wednesday of November occurring the day before Thanksgiving, the next board meeting will occur at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 18.

Board meeting concludes

Respectfully submitted, Greg Turosak, Secretary