



Board Meeting – Nov. 18, 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; Charyssa Cobb, Kim Reid, Dave Siljenberg and Joe Lobl, Members at Large; Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer, ex officio

Absent: Rob Harveland, Treasurer

1. **Call to Order and Chalice Lighting:** Gail called the meeting to order. Chalice lighting was regarded as virtual since the board met in the Commons. Charyssa provided words for reflection on the chapter Mindful Meetings from Serving with Grace.
2. **Consent Agenda: Motion** by Dave, second by Ann to accept the consent agenda (with minor reordering) and October 2018 minutes. Approved.
3. **Stewardship.** Amy Nelson, “team lead” of the stewardship effort, described this year’s approach. There will be no face-to-face canvassing, she said. Amy mentioned a webinar on electronic giving and said she’d like to look into doing that here, in March. It’s like Pay Pal, but for a church, she said. Stewardship kickoff party is slotted for March 16, she said, with everything wrapped up by April 7. Board meeting next April is April 17, giving board some time to work with pledge stragglers. Rev. Luke mentioned that First UU in Minneapolis has a Pledge Day. Amy said she’d like to see a Why U Give Wall as part of the effort, where people could write comments.
4. **Financial update.** In Rob’s absence, Gail reported that income is ahead of projection, and the plate is ahead of projection. Wednesday suppers have been successful. She reported the auction has raised \$29,700 for the church after expenses, as well as \$2,930 for Family Promise and \$2,565 for the youth trip.
5. **Minister’s report.** Rev. Luke described the initial efforts to have a conversation about our building. He mentioned continuing listening sessions, sending out a congregational survey and tracking demographic reflections to understand specific groups within the church. Regarding staffing, Rev. Luke praised the good start of new office administrator Erika Fetterman. Given this hire, Rev. Luke said that an office assistant position is not needed at this time. What is needed, he said, is increased custodial or building-related staff hours. This person could be used to help with set-up, clean-up, security, hospitality and being on-call for various building needs.
6. **Old Business.**
 - a. **Fee schedule language.** Rev. Luke explained proposed language addition to rental fee policy: “The Board, or Minister, may use discretion to waive various rental fees for organizations or groups that align with the values of our church, and for whatever reason, have limited ability to pay for use of the space. Such occurrences will be noted in the standard rental agreement.” Rev. Luke said people would still fill out a rental agreement and that we’d always ask for a damage deposit (an uncashed check). Motion by Dave, second by Charyssa. Approved.

- b. **Sanctuary remodel update.** First discussion regarded contractor. Adam Kramer not interested in doing the work right now. Dave asked a carpenter; Gail indicated that he (Gary Stoner) has accepted a bid under estimates. Ann reported that a significant number of items have come in via donations that could be used in the sanctuary room (former board room). Gail said the work would probably be done by the end of December.
- c. **Safe congregation emergency update.** Dave reported he hadn't heard back yet from any of the other people involved. Rev. Luke said he hasn't had a chance yet to contact Jehovah's Witnesses.
- d. **Board vacancy.** Gail said she would pursue reaching out to two suggested younger congregants to see if either were interested.

7. New Business.

- a. **Bylaws revision schedule.** Ann described a timeline for the preparation and presentation of proposed bylaws amendments. The overall approach, she said, is to have bylaws cover "how we govern". Superfluous and procedural language will be taken out of bylaws, with details being included in various policies. The timeline provides the following: (a) additional committee meetings from November through January; (b) update to the board, with first draft of proposed changes, at the Jan. 19, 2019, board meeting; (c) announcement of small group discussions and posting of initial draft of proposed bylaws changes in February; (d) several small group discussions in March; (e) reviews comments received and make revisions as appropriate in March/April; (f) endorsement of final version of proposed bylaws changes by Board on April 17; (g) posting of and miscellaneous communication about final version of changes on May 1; (h) voting on proposed bylaws changes at June 2 annual meeting of the congregation.
- b. **Policy voting items.**
 - i. **Document #: Standing Committees C-13.** Discussion, voting on this item postponed until December.
 - ii. **Document #: Standing Committees C-2.** This document pertains to terminology related to committees. At meeting, two changes were approved: (1) Under Leadership, change wording to: "A committee chair shall be recommended or approved by the committee and approved by the Board, or approved as specified in the bylaws, for a term of one year, with a maximum of three consecutive terms. ..." (2) Under Decision-Making, change wording to: "Committees collaborate with staff persons and/or the Minister according to and in a fashion determined by their respective committee descriptions." As brought before the board, this document also proposed additions and a deletion referencing the Program Council. Motion by Ann, second by Kim to approve as amended. Approved.
 - iii. **Document #: Operating Council – C-3.** This document defined the Program Council. Motion by Ann, second by Dave to remove this Program Council section. Approved.

Board meeting concludes

Respectfully submitted, Greg Turosak, Secretary