

**Board Meeting – Nov. 20, 2019**

*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; Rob Harveland, Treasurer; Greg Turosak, Secretary; Kim Reid, Dave Siljenberg, Joe Lobl, Molly Dingel and Sarah Hayes, Members at Large; Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer, ex officio

**Absent:** None.

1. **Call to Order and Chalice Lighting:** Gail called the meeting to order. Greg provided reflections on the topic “Attention.” The chalice was lit.
2. **Consent Agenda:** Motion by Rob, second by Ann, to approve Consent Agenda and minutes from October. Approved.
3. **Financial update.** Rob reported things are looking well again, with income ahead of projections and expenses below projections. Projections were exceeded on the local auction, which took in about $30,700 and provided close to $4,000 for NAMI. Up next is the craft fair, and we’re at about $1,250 in table deposits. Rob also reported a decision to sell some of the church’s stock because its value went above 10% of our annual budget.
4. **New business.**
	1. **Name change for Religious Education** **Council**. Amy Nelson, acting RE director, explained that for adults, our faith is constantly changing. The phrase “faith development” indicates a different mindset than “religious education.” She asked board approval to change the name of the RE Council to the Faith Development team. She also indicated the team will meet quarterly instead of monthly. Motion by Ann, second by Kim, to change the name. Approved.
	2. **Sex offender risk reduction policy.** Gail and Rev. Luke led the discussion on this topic. Alex Burger, who serves in a sex offender program for Olmsted, Fillmore and Mower counties, will attend a Jan. 26 church forum on the topic. Terri Aldred, who has dedicated 33 years professionally to the area including running an outpatient treatment program for 12 years, is unable to attend the Jan. 26 forum, but she attended the board meeting to convey ideas/recommendations and answer questions. First, she suggested putting together a trained team or teams of congregants to be activated whenever sex offender issues arise. Terri volunteered to be on such a team and help with specialized intervention training. Second, she suggested providing educational opportunities for anyone in the congregation who wants it – what other congregations are doing, understanding victimization history, giving people tools not to objectify the offender. Third, she recommended creating safe spaces where people can share their experiences and express their feelings. Rev. Luke suggested that next step would be for Terri and Rev. Luke to review the latest draft of a sex offender risk reduction policy in preparation for the Jan. 26 forum.
5. **Minister’s report.** Rev. Luke reported on a number of matters:
	1. **Program** **highlights**. We’re seeing increased attendance and participation. 10 new members joined the previous Sunday, bringing total membership to 378.
	2. **Conversation** **regarding** **hate** **crimes**. Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison will lead a Dec. 3 panel at the church on the topic of hate crimes.
	3. **Building** **Visioning** **Team**. The team will visit the Duluth UU church. Rev. Luke indicated that in the near future, our church will begin reaching out to consultants to get a better sense of our options. Rev. Luke asked for the board’s support, financially and otherwise, as the team embarks on the next phase. Motion by Kim, second by Dave. Approved.
	4. **Shared** **Ministry** **Team**. Rev. Luke said the team has begun a process that will lead to possible recommendations to the board. He said the team has talked about the need for communications and that some bylaws will need to be changed to align with some of the recommendations.
6. **Old business.**
	1. **Liaison reports.**
		1. **Property.** Property Committee met recently and discussed the committee’s role within shared ministry. Some questions were raised, and there was some support.
		2. **Sanctuary.** No report.
		3. **Religious Education.** Nothing more beyond what Amy Nelson discussed earlier in the meeting.
		4. **Stewardship**. Barb Foss has agreed to take on the leadership role. A Feb. 29 fellowship event is planned.
		5. **Endowment.** No report. Gail asked whether endowment could be a topic for a future Wednesday forum, and Joe said yes.
		6. **Personnel.** No report.
		7. **Safe congregation.** No report.
		8. **Sanctuary.** No report.
		9. **Nominating.** Gail has been meeting with people on the nominating team, and the process is underway.

Board meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Greg Turosak, Secretary