



Board Meeting – Jan. 20, 2021

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

Meeting Minutes

Board: Ann Hutton, President; Kim Reid, Vice President; Greg Turosak, Secretary; Rob Harveland, Treasurer; Dave Siljeborg, Joe Lobl, Molly Dingel and Sarah Hayes, Members at Large; Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer, ex officio.

Absent: Sarah Hayes, Member at Large

Guests: Mark Brutinel, chair of Nominating Committee

1. **Call to Order.** Ann called the meeting to order.
2. **Chalice Lighting and Reflection.** Dave reflected on the topic of Imagination, and the chalice was lit.
3. **Agenda.** Motion by Joe, second by Kim to approve the agenda and the minutes from the December 2020 meeting. Approved.
4. **Old business.**
 - a. **Board vacancy.** The Nominating Committee has been looking at potential candidates to fill the board vacancy left by the resignation of Kathy Schwarz. The board has the authority under our bylaws to fill a vacancy. Mark explained to the board the various options. Someone appointed to fill out the remainder of the church year (through May) could be the same person whose name is offered at the annual meeting to serve out the remainder of Kathy's 2-year term, or it could be someone else. Mark went through the list of candidates developed. Ann said she would take the list and contact potential candidates. Motion by Greg, second by Dave, for Ann to proceed as described, with successful candidate to fill the vacancy beginning immediately. Approved.
 - b. **Personnel Committee.** Discussion, led by Kim, about where this committee, which has a vacancy, best fits under the Shared Ministry model. Some discussion that it may fit as a subcommittee of the board that meets occasionally or as needed. No action taken, with the thought that the issue could be discussed further at next meeting of the Shared Ministry Team.
 - c. **Building Our Future.** Greg (who, along with Ann, sits on the Building Our Future team) explains gift of land from an anonymous couple in the congregation contingent on congregational decision to fund building a new church in a new location. The land is about 10 acres and in northeast Rochester. Very positive response from board members, but also concerns that any board motion not be perceived as presuming the decisions that still need to be made by the congregation. A letter from the donors also acknowledges that if the church moves, it should build in the best location. If a move is approved and the church decides to move to land other than what the donors are offering, the donors said they are committed to provide a similar level of financial support. Motion by Greg, second by Ann, to acknowledge the contingent gift of land, contingent upon the congregation's vote to move to a new location and to accept this specific piece of land. Approved.

- d. **Stewardship Campaign.** Joe reported that the pledge drive team, headed by Barb Foss, is moving forward. The theme is "Tending the Flame." The team is looking to present an edited version of last year's talent show. Official kickoff date for the drive is March 6.

5. New business.

- a. **Initial 2021-2022 budget discussion.** Rob reported that he, Connie Schuelka and Rev. Luke will be gathering input from the Shared Ministry teams and putting together a draft budget for the 2021-2022 church year. He said we could leave money in a carryover fund for Building Our Future efforts. Kim asked that Rob and Rev. Luke think about funding for managing our online presence.

6. Reports.

- a. **Minister's report.** In a report provided in advance of the meeting, Rev. Luke said he continues to be grateful for our church's resilience and vibrancy in these times. Viewing of online services is strong; creativity continues to show through in instances such as the recent snow play day at the Helmers' farm; our building guidelines team is beginning to imagine ways we can gather outdoors this spring and summer; and we're involved in a series of justice-focused opportunities.
- b. **Review financials.** In reports provided by Rob and Connie in advance of the meeting, the budget remains in good shape. Income is at 117% of projections, and expenses are 87% of projections. \$1,250 was taken from the Fiscal Year Carryover fund as down payment for a Next Steps Weekend with a UU stewardship consultant. All auction payments have been made, and we ended up \$734.43 over budget for the auction. The plate is above projections. We took in 7 new members in December, and most are already pledging.

7. Other/Announcements.

- a. Building Our Future forums are scheduled for Feb. 17 and Feb. 21.
- b. April 28 is slotted for an end-of-year review of board goals and tasks.

Meeting adjourned. Next Board meeting will be Feb. 17, 2021.

Respectfully submitted, Greg Turosak, secretary