



Board Meeting – Oct. 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 Siljenberg, Joe Lobl, Molly Dingel, Brianna Berg and Walt Rothwell, Members at Large; Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer, ex officio.

1. **Call to order.** Ann called the meeting to order.
2. **Chalice Lighting & Reflection.** Molly reflected on the theme of Cultivating Relationship, and ended with a reading from A. Powell Davies. The chalice was lit.
3. **Motion to approve agenda and previous meeting minutes.** Kim moved, and Walt seconded, approving the agenda and previous meeting minutes. Approved.
4. **Financial reports.** Rob said things are looking all right, and he detailed a few minor expenditures: (1) About \$400 out of the Memorial Fund for silk flowers, which should save money in the long run; (2) About \$500 from the Youth Fund for items that youth can sell at the Handcrafted Bazaar; (3) About \$1,000 for Hicks Electric to replace ceiling light bulbs; (4) A small credit to Social Justice from sale of Black Lives Matter signs.
 - a. **Corporate resolution for Wells Fargo.** Ann said a new version of this corporate resolution is needed to reflect Ann's name as board president. Greg moved approval, and Walt seconded. Approved.
 - b. **Corporate resolution for estate bequest.** Through the estate of a deceased person, approximately \$20,000 is being provided to the Endowment Fund. A board resolution is needed to authorize Connie Schuelka, congregational administrator, and Rob as treasurer to conduct this transaction on behalf of the church. Moved by Kim, seconded by Molly. Approved.
5. **Minister's report.** Rev. Luke said it's a blessing to have limited in-person Sunday services again. Mostly, the plans have been successful and the registrations for the services full. He said there is still some anxiety about in-person gathering, and that many people are feeling a sense of grief and loss about not being able to connect in person. Walt asked questions about how overflow of Sunday attendees is handled and wondered if we need more frequent updates about Sunday services in the e-newsletter.

Old business

6. **NE Property Tours.** Greg said that about 7 tours of the NE property that has been offered by donors have been scheduled each week in September and October. Some tours did not occur because no one signed up. Overall, counting past people on tours and those who are scheduled, about 130 people from the congregation will have toured the property by the end of October. Greg said that going forward, tours will be scheduled upon request. Ann mentioned that the Building Our Future/Beyond Ourselves team is scheduled to meet with architects on the site late in October, at no charge. The architects will be asked to comment on the suitability of the site for building, and where they think is the best place to build. Kim asked about potential rocks on the property. Greg mentioned that a soil-boring report exists, which the architects have been provided and will be asked to comment on. Walt asked about the entrance to the property, and Kim said the southern potential entrance seems better to her. Greg said these will be among the issues addressed as the property is looked at.

7. **Shared Ministry.** Kim said the overall Shared Ministry Team met last Sunday. Kim brought forth questions from the board about membership, filling vacancies and whether some teams need more at-large members. Kim said that the feeling was that members of the congregation rather than staff members should lead the team meetings. Discussion also included how to keep the congregation better informed about Shared Ministry teams. An email will go out soon to the various SMT teams seeking input on the above issues and recapping what the teams have been doing.
 - a. **Administration.** Greg and Dave said this team has not met recently.
 - b. **Congregational Life.** Joe said many areas of congregational life are running like a well-oiled machine, with many activities going on. A challenging area, he said, has been hospitality. Some people are upset by the loss of hospitality teams. There are fewer Sunday jobs, and there's a sense of loss, Joe said.
 - c. **Faith Development.** Kim said the big topic is conversations with the Rochester Arts and Sciences Academy (RASA), a small private school that is looking to expand their classroom space by renting shared space on both levels of our RE wing beginning in the fall of 2022. They have offered to provide their own furnishings. Kim said negotiations are needed regarding shared space. Kim said the RASA principal will be on-site in the coming week to walk through the RE space.
 - d. **Financial Stewardship.** Rob said no meeting has occurred since the last board meeting.
 - e. **Social Justice.**
 - i. **Refugee Resettlement Program.** Molly said that members of Social Justice had met recently with Catholic Charities regarding sponsoring a refugee family. Ann pointed out that sponsoring is different from hosting/housing in our building. Molly said this effort would involve a group of about 15 people from our church and other churches who help a refugee family adjust. Luke said it would be appropriate for the board to give a vote of encouragement to the Social Justice team for its refugee efforts. Following discussion, Rob moved, and Joe seconded as motion as follows: "The board encourages the Social Justice Team and interested UU members and friends to continue supporting the Refugee Resettlement Program, and the board endorses this involvement as a faith community." Approved.
 - f. **Worship and Music.** Ann said the team met last week. Discussion involved recent services, future services, integrating the choir, how do we work Christmas services, and getting different voices into the pulpit. Luke mentioned that anyone who participates on the chancel must be vaccinated.
8. **Re-gathering guidelines & activities.** Joe talked about continuing to be cautious, with concern being paid to people with illnesses and who are immunocompromised. There's also been a lot of discussion about ventilation. He said there has been an Iso-Air device in the back of the sanctuary on trial (and which will be returned), but that the sanctuary appears to have good circulation by running the HVAC system. He also said the side door to the sanctuary could be kept open until it gets too cold. Joe said it's not a good idea to try to open up old exhaust fan in the ceiling of the sanctuary (it was disabled long ago). Circulation in the Commons should be good now that we've discovered a large air intake in one of the closets. It's now running and we have several new filters. Joe said there are small, dehumidifier-sized HEPA air filter units that could be rolled into small office and RE rooms. Joe recently purchased 2 for trial.

New business

9. **New Service Auction date – April 29-30.** Rob explained that there had been hope to have an in-person auction this fall, but the continued spread of the delta variant of COVID in recent months has waylaid that plan. There's also concern, he said, about too much online activity, even though last year's auction worked out well online. So, the recommendation is to hold the annual service auction on April 29-30, with an auctioneer prepared to do an in-person auction. The auction is an important annual source of income, but Rob said we have more-than-sufficient liquid assets, and he is not concerned about a delay. Rob said that auction planners will be all ready to do a live or virtual auction next April.

Other / Announcements

10.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: Via Zoom, Wednesday, Nov. 17, 6:45 p.m. check-in and 7:00 p.m. meeting.

Reflection theme: Holding History – Walt

Respectfully submitted, Greg Turosak, secretary