



Board Meeting – Dec. 15, 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, Brianna Berg and Walt Rothwell, Members at Large; Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer, ex officio.

Absent: Rob Harveland, Treasurer.

Guest: Amy Nelson, director of Faith Development

1. **Call to order.** Ann called the meeting to order.
2. **Chalice Lighting & Reflection.** Brianna reflected on the theme of Open to Joy and how joy is hard work. The chalice was lit.
3. **Motion to approve agenda and previous meeting minutes.** Joe moved, and Walt seconded, approving the agenda (as modified, to allow change of item order as necessary) and previous meeting minutes. Approved.
4. **Financial reports.** This item was held as the meeting progressed. Later, with the meeting adjourned early due to a tornado threat, discussion of financials was deferred. Board members had received financials in advance via email, and Ann reported finances were normal and that she did not have any questions.
5. **Minister's report.** Rev. Luke provided an overview of holiday service plans. There will be three services on Dec. 24 – one at 3:30 p.m. (limited capacity, with pre-registration required) and two typical Christmas Eve services at 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. (no registration required). Rev. Luke also explained his proposal to provide a full-year ministerial internship to Jill Braithwaite, who is working toward finishing her divinity education. He said he envisions an internship committee of about five members, and that he would act as the intern's supervisor. He said the intern would do a service every month to six weeks, and engage in a variety of tasks, some remotely and some on-site. The position would be full-time, at \$2,318 per month, with hours varying from week to week. Various board members offered strong support for Rev. Luke's proposal. Board approved a motion, made by Kim and seconded by Joe, to authorize Rev. Luke to continue discussions and make an offer after the holidays, with an internship to begin in September 2022.

Old business

6. **Building Our Future/Beyond Ourselves.** Greg and Walt gave an update of where things stand with the church property being on the city's list of potential historic properties, and the church's efforts to be removed from that list. They also discussed sentiment of the BOF/BO team to re-focus efforts on a stay-or-go vote, de-emphasizing for now where we might move to if we go. Kim said she appreciates the re-focus. She also said that consultant Rachel Maxwell's report was very powerful, and we should keep coming back to that report and pointing out elements to the congregation. Walt pointed out that Rachel Maxwell advised we need to get back into our building and re-connect before taking other steps in the process. Ann said that at least the focus for some time on the potential donation property in northeast Rochester has given people a sense of the potential of moving somewhere else, whether that property or some other.

7. **RASA – Rochester Arts and Science Academy.** Kim and Amy Nelson, director of Faith Development, led a discussion on the RASA request to temporarily lease space in our building, beginning in the fall of 2022. Amy said feedback she has received so far from within the church has been positive. Kim asked if Amy could reach out to the nearby Congregational Church, which has been renting space to RASA, to see how their experience has been. Kim said RASA has presented a preliminary proposal, and there are a couple of areas that need to be negotiated. One is who would pay for building upgrades, which Kim and Amy believe wouldn't be needed if RASA were not renting space. Another is how to divide expenses for increased building energy costs. Motion by Joe, second by Molly, to allow Kim and Amy to enter negotiations with RASA on a lease. The final version would be brought back to the board for approval. Approved.
8. **Shared Ministry.** Not discussed. Reports from teams were emailed in advance of the meeting.

New business

9. **Board update at a Wednesday forum.** Rev. Luke to suggest a date.

Other / Announcements

10. None.

Meeting adjourned early due to threatening weather (tornado threat).

Next meeting: Via Zoom, Wednesday, Jan. 19, 6:45 p.m. check-in and 7:00 p.m. meeting.

Reflection theme: Living With Intention – Kim

Respectfully submitted, Greg Turosak, secretary