

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of Trustees
First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit
Parlor, 4605 Cass, Detroit, MI 48201
December 16, 2018

CALL TO ORDER: Dan Hale called the regular meeting of the Governing Board of Trustees to order at 12:50pm on December 16, 2018. Present were Reverend Stephen Butler Murray, Dan Hale, President; Kathe Stevens, Immediate Past President; Don Wiest, Vice President, Dan Secrest, Deanna McGraw, Martha Bogner, and Sharon Wills, Trustees-at-Large; Bob Lauer, Treasurer, Tim Bailey, Chairman Building and Grounds Committee, Stephanie Murphy, RE Committee, and Nancy Shattuck, Board Secretary. There was a quorum.

COVENANT: Dan Hale, President, led the board in the reading of the following covenant: "We covenant to work together in honesty, kindness, and respect for each other as we carry out the business of this church. We are a religious community. Let us move forward in love."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: It was **moved, seconded and approved** to adopt the December 2018 Board Minutes, with amendments.

MINISTER'S REPORT: Reverend Murray reported fourteen visits to hospitals and rehab centers. As he has changed jobs, he will no longer be making so many trips. The next year, he will schedule services in three-week blocks with a week off each month.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Dan Hale reported preliminary results from the survey to gauge the congregation's thoughts on the future. Responses were evenly divided with preferences to wanting to occupy a church building in the midtown with space for worship, and child education. The majority preferred renting the building. He will keep the survey open for another month. He met with the What Next Group, which now includes Stephen Murray, Dan Wiest, Dan Hale, and sometimes Dessa Cosma. He discussed activities in the search for midtown churches and meeting spaces for nonprofits. The search will continue. Deanna McGraw commented that only buildings that are accessible should be considered.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Bob Lauer distributed the Statement of Operations and Actual vs. Budget reports for the year ending June 30, 2019 and answered questions.
- The year ending June 30, 2019, UU Detroit donations were down the second month this year, but expenses are well below budget, which puts us in the black.

COMMITTEE/PROGRAM REPORTS: Written and oral reports were given for the following:

- **Communication Committee:** Dan Secrest distributed the Communication Committee report for November 2018. He talked about a need to connect with the Worship Committee regarding effective communication. He will hold a workshop on January 6 at 18201 Parkside, presenting ideas from the *Getting to Yes* book. The committee hasn't begun focusing on immigration issues yet.

- **Finance Committee:** Dan Wiest commented that UU Detroit will budget the same bonuses for employees at year's end.
- **Worship Committee:** Nancy Owen-Nelson submitted a written report: minutes from the last meeting. No discussion.
- **Young Adults:** Stephanie Murphy attended the meeting and spoke about the importance of reaching out to parents, who should have some say in what their children are learning. They should know who is hired and who is caring for them. The program must have the right values. She envisioned volunteers teaching the children; Dan Secrest will need to recruit volunteers to start up a RE program.

Questions were raised on the hiring practices for the child care positions. No one had an exit interview with the person leaving, and procedures for hiring her replacement were not followed. The board is responsible for the deciding all new hires and to that end, will meet with Sally Borden regarding the proper procedures for the future.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Education on Estate Planning:** No one has found an attorney to take on the probono work, but the board is committed to pursuing it. Dan Hale may have someone who owes him a favor.
- **What Next Initiatives:** See the notes for the President's Report.
- **Update on Williams Estate.** Dan Hale reported that pursuing legal aid to track probate decisions on the Williams estate isn't worth it. There may or may not be money coming to the church. For now, Connie Hirt has bequeathed nine percent of her estate to UU and the lawyer will get back to Dan on how much that is.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Nominations for the Next Election Cycle:** Dan Hale presented continuing concerns for the election committee. He has distributed a list of positions requiring replacements. The Board discussed the larger picture: encouraging leadership. Many of the younger members of the church have moved away or run for political offices, which has left a hole in leadership. The church needs to find ways to continue bringing people in the process. It was decided that if we ask people to do just one thing, it may be possible the first step will lead to participation. A follow-up breakfast for new members was suggested for February. The Board decided to bring in a process for the next meeting and make the nominations the focal point for discussion in January.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT: Dan Hale adjourned the meeting at 2:30pm.

Next Meeting (NOTE NEW DATE/TIME and LOCATION):

Next meetings are January 20 and February 17, 2019