

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of Trustees**  
 First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit  
 Parlor, 4605 Cass, Detroit, MI 48201  
**April 28, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Dan Hale called the regular meeting of the Governing Board of Trustees to order at 12:30 pm on April 28, 2019. Present were Reverend Stephen Butler Murray; Dan Hale, President; Dan Wiest, Vice President; Dan Secrest, Deanna McGraw, Martha Bogner, and Sharon Mills, Trustees-at-Large; Bob Lauer, Treasurer; and Nancy Shattuck, Board Secretary. Kathe Stevens, Immediate Past President, was excused. There was a quorum.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Approval of minutes for the March 18 regular board meeting was moved, seconded and approved.

**MINISTER'S REPORT:** Rev. Murray reported that collaboration with Cynthia Dawdy and the worship committee has been successful and thanked those that took part in the egg hunt and pop-up butterflies. He decided not to apply for the Chalice grant this year on advice. Discussion brought up other options to fund a children's program: a Mid-America grant next year or start a Go Fund campaign. Rev. Murray will follow through on suggestions to change the order of service to delay the children's talk until after the chalice lighting and welcome.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

- **Space Update/What Next:** Dan Hale met with the new committee on April 25. The committee reviewed a list of churches for sale or rent listed on various websites. Dan reported the committee expressed some interest in three options. First, **staying**, where UU Detroit might loan EMEAC some support for operations to be reimbursed at sale; second, working with EMEAC, **finding a buyer** who will allow UU Detroit to stay; and third, simply **moving to another viable facility**. The committee will meet again in ten days.
- **Financial Projections Update:** Bob Lauer alerted the board to new, unexpected financial matters. The City of Detroit is assessing UU Detroit for sewage fees (\$600 a month) and property tax (\$5,800 a year) for the Prentis parking lot. UU Detroit will ask for a reduced rate for nonprofit status. The new possible expenses of nearly \$15,000, and an expected 10% decrease in membership revenue, suggest a possible shortfall next year even if UU Detroit stays at its present location. Bob suggested that the possible deficit may make sacrificing some programs necessary.
- **Youth Room/Children's Program Redesign:** Dan Hale reviewed the history of the present children's program and reported the discussion at the first meeting of the new committee with Sally Borden, Russ Lorraine, Dan Wiest, and Tim Bailey. Discussion suggested that before any new substantial commitment to the children's program, we need to answer the question: what do we want from this program?

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

- Bob Lauer distributed the Statement of Operations and Actual vs. Budget and Bank statement reports as of March 31, 2019 for the year ending June 30, 2019 and answered questions.
- He is working on the budget for next year; he needs to complete estimates for pledges, property taxes, and so forth. It will be ready in June.

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

- **Communication Committee:** Dan Secrest reported he is meeting with Colin Wilson about document maintenance and working on an online form for the Canvass Committee. Discussion on a newsletter and web site policy manual has been postponed until the next board meeting.
- **Worship Committee:** In response to recent comments on guest sermons, Dan Secrest is working with the worship committee to roll out procedures for the Worship Committee to handle responses to speakers. The sermon discussion table will be asked to give feedback to the Worship Committee. Dan Secrest will also set parameters for objections from the sermon discussion table.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **Annual Meeting:** Dan Hale asked that the board review last year's annual meeting report and asked for suggestions for this year's meeting before May 19<sup>th</sup>.
- **Canvass Committee Update:** Dan Secrest reported that 27 members have pledged a total of \$48,000 to date. Bob Lauer volunteered to send the spreadsheets for actual data from 2018-19.
- **Homeless Care/Assistance:** Deanna McGraw and Sharon Mills presented a report regarding approaches to homeless persons seeking assistance at the Church. They will vet the shelters, transportation, etc. that may be of interest. The board brought up medical-emergency expenses that might result from calling an ambulance, for example, and Deanna and Sharon will look into sources that avoid these costs and add them to the procedures.
- **Nominations/Nominations Committee Update:** Dan Hale passed out a sample ballot for the annual meeting in June. The congregation will vote for General Assembly delegates at the May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, and the UU Board of Trustees will hold a brief board session directly after this meeting.
- **Welcoming Congregation:** Reverend Murray will give a sermon on May 19<sup>th</sup> supporting the Pride march. This will be the starting point for the committee going forward.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Dan Hale adjourned the meeting at 2:22 pm.

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

May 19 Annual Meeting – meeting to pass a motion to adjourn the meeting until June 2

May 19 brief board meeting afterward

June 2 - continuation of Annual Meeting

June 16