



Second Unitarian Church of Chicago Board of Trustees

June 10, 2015

Minutes

Approved July 8, 2015

Board of Trustees present: Darrin Weatherspoon, Susan Zeigler, Jim Redlich, Kimberly Bares, Monica Drane, Roger Wykes, Karen Fort, Molly Rossow

Staff present: The Rev. Adam Robersmith, Andrew Zallar

Guests present: Ashley Boyd, Lee Hopkins and Tom Denio (incoming Chair-Elect)

Meeting Kick-off

- Chair's Welcome – Darrin called the meeting to order at 7:05. The Board recited the covenant and Adam led the check-in.
- Karen made a motion, seconded by Roger, to approve the May Board meeting minutes. The motion carried.

Visitor(s) Presentations

- Ashley Boyd and Lee Hopkins– SJC - Black Lives Matter Banner Request
At last week's Social Justice Council meeting, we voted unanimously in favor of hanging a Black Lives Matter banner in front of the church in support of the #BlackLivesMatter movement to end racist violence and police brutality. First Unitarian, Third Unitarian, and UCE already have banners and/or signs up on church grounds, and we thought it would be passé if we didn't join them. After sharing the proposal with Adam, he expressed his favor for making a clear statement as a congregation. At this point, we understand that we need to schedule time to speak to the Board about hanging the banner.
- Jim made a motion, seconded by Monica, to support the installation of a banner at the church associated with the Black Lives Matter movement. The motion carried. Karen Fort offered to pay for the banner and the Social Justice Council will handle the details and logistics of installing the banner. Adam affirmed his commitment to continue educating the congregation about the Black Lives Manner movement in conjunction with the 2U Black Lives Matter committee and reminded the Board that this was important church work. The banner will be up for a minimum of 6 months and will be re-evaluated through the Social Justice Council to determine if it should be extended.

Staff Reports Review and Discussion

- Congregational Administrator's Report – Andrew reviewed some building issues and provided updates on repairs, renting to new tenants and booking events, including a possible home schooling co-op. Andrew has been supporting the canvass, the Finance Committee and Treasurer, and is readying our new membership/pledge software, among other administrative work.
- Minister's Report – Adam reported that the Nominating Committee has already met and is very excited about their work. Kate Friedlob has volunteered to be one of the Board appointed members to the Nominating Committee; she served as an elected member last year. The "Passages" email is being developed to be sent to members only, with member-generated information about people's passages, if they request to be included. Passages might mean births, deaths, graduations, moves, job changes, and more. The emails will not be archived. Adam is looking forward to strengthening the interrelatedness of church members next year. Rudra Dundzila and Amy Markley will be working on this engagement and relationship building project together.
- DFD's report – Raquel submitted a written report.



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Finance Review and Discussion

- Treasurer's Report: - Jim Redlich – Written report submitted. Pledges are running behind about \$10,000 or 7%. Bottom line is looking good in terms of expenses. Jackie Dienstag is back to the Finance Committee. Jim mentioned that he and his wife, Myra, will be at General Assembly, along with Erin Rusmi. Karen made a motion, seconded by Roger, that Jim, Myra and Erin be designated delegates for the purpose of voting on issues on behalf of the church. Motion carried. Jim reminded the Board that a list of large-ticket items is needed to begin circulating throughout the congregation, which could provide the basis for conversations about a Capital Campaign. Monica asked about our dues; Jim explained that we pay our dues in two payments, in December and June. Higher health insurance costs than expected for the minister have been anticipated in the 2015-16 budget.

Sabbatical Minister Selection

- Sabbatical Minister selection update – Susan, Molly, Adam
- Molly made a motion to enter into Executive Session, seconded by Monica, to discuss the sabbatical minister search process and recommended candidate.
- Kimberly made a motion, seconded by Monica, to bring the Board out of Executive Session. Motion carried.
- Jim asked Adam to clarify his sabbatical dates. Adam's last day will be August 31, 2015 and his first day back will February 1, 2016.
- During the Executive Session, Roger made a motion, seconded by Susan, to offer the position of Sabbatical Minister to Emmy Lou Belcher.
- The Board discussed ways in which Emmy Lou could be welcomed and introduced to the congregation. She will be leading worship 3 times/month. Lay services will be overseen by the Sunday Services Committee.

Congregational Health (Priority items only this month)

- Council Report - Roger Wykes – Council is on hiatus until August. Mark Williams is the new Hospitality Chair. In August, the Council will begin organizing the Involvement Fair.
- Pride Parade Update – the Young Adults will be organizing 2U's participation in the parade. In future years, the Chicago Area UU Council will be reached out to in order to generate more Chicago-area wide involvement and support. There may be other parades in which 2U has a greater interest or involvement going forward, such as the Disability Pride Parade.



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- Worship in the Park – Adam / Darrin – The date of the service will be the first Sunday in August.
- New Member Updates (as of July 1, 2014): Darrin
 - **New Members 15** (3 in May).

Governance and Policy

- Restart Strategic Planning Discussion – Adam reviewed the written materials, which outlines projects completed or to be done for the fiscal years 2014-2020. The Board discussed the “one service/two service” question and why it should be addressed in FY2017. The Board also discussed the building needs related to a capital campaign. Susan asked about accountability; the next Board will look at who or what committee will be responsible for getting projects done. Jim raised the question of transitioning from Pastoral to Program model as a church.

Old business

- There was no old business.

New business

- The Board recognized Monica, Kimberly and Darrin for their service.

Adjourn

- Kimberly made a motion, seconded by Roger, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:34pm.