



Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors

Tuesday, March 10, 2015

- ✓ Bill Scown, President
- ✓ Dan Masini, VP Admin Council
- ✓ John Towell, Secretary
- ✓ Cindy Vacek, Director
- ✓ Jennifer Klein, Director
- ✓ David de Coriolis, Director
- ✓ Lindsay Bates, Senior Minister, *ex officio*
- ✓ Katie Phillips, Congregational Administrator, *ex officio*

Also present: Nancy Goodfellow, Hal Schulman, Ann Drover, Kevin O'Neill, David Tomell

1. Regular Reports

- **Secretary:** Minutes from February Board Meeting accepted.
- **Finance (Treasurer):** Kevin (in the absence of Pat Ward) covered the finance situation by revealing income was a little low in February which may have been due to a lost service due to weather. Hopefully, this will be made up in March which will have five services. We now have a negative \$17,000, we are behind on pledges and we are taking in each week less than what was expected.
- **Councils:** Nothing To Add (NTA)
- **Senior Minister:** Lindsay announced that our current choir director has resigned and will not be back next year.
- **Congregational Administrator:** There will be two BOD meetings in April – an additional one on April 28th at 7pm.

2. Finance Committee Recommendations on FY 2016 Budget

- Following initial discussion of concern regarding the need for more funding and possible reasons for why, Kevin pointed out that after three years there will be \$80,000 unfunded expense kicking in and



thus will have to be included into the budgeting process. The good news is that there is money in the bank to cover our current troubles but in three years, there will be considerable challenge. Bill then pressed the need to think about priorities as we will be needing to make cuts – he thought that maintaining our staff should be a high priority. Dan discussed cutting back our contribution to UUA to which David added that this is what has been generally done in past situations. Cindy pondered the possibility of closing the church a day during the week to cut costs. Jennifer questioned the purpose of such actions - would it save cost or send a message to the congregation. Dan thought it would be primarily a message sender although David noted that our current costs are roughly \$1,000 a day. Bill put this in the context of furloughing the staff for a certain number of days per month. David pointed out that we are currently sending money (that we are taking in via the plate) out the door (BOW). Dan suggested we have the auction once a year instead of every other year and Debbie pointed out that the people who run it would be against it because of the enormous work load it presents. Cindy wondered about expanding our Swedish Days booth operations. Bill pressed the need to be thinking about additional fund raisers. Cindy asked if there was a fund raising committee and Bill indicated that presently there was no such committee. Bill then asked if there were programs that we don't need to preserve, such as keeping the choir director. In that vein Cindy wondered if funds could be directed to expand the Music Director's responsibility to include choir direction. Lindsay pointed out that it wasn't a skill set that Tracy Rosenkrans had. Debbie asked about what has been done in the past to cut back. Kevin noted that programs have been cut back, RE funds restricted, etc., but that the size of our current gap is daunting. Bill suggested that if we could get volunteers to take over some of Deann's responsibilities, we could save some \$'s. Bill then pointed out that our LRE will help us grow and hence we should work hard to preserve these programs. Discussion then segued into consideration of hospitality expenses and Cindy pointed out that most of the \$4,000 in hospitality expenses come from special occasions and not the Sunday social hours. Bill returned to the theme of reducing staff hours and the need to convey to the congregation how serious this is – the message must be clearly made. David pointed out that \$10 per week increase in 200 pledge units would close the gap. Dan wondered if there was any information telling us why people are holding back. Lindsay noted that looking at those pledge units that are, for whatever reason, not contributing, we need to get more from those who are contributing. David stressed the need for all the Board members to be conversant in the details of the budget. Bill noted that we can go back to the congregation for more



pledges but in the meantime we need to make cuts. Debbie asked about whether there was any indication that George's appeal from last Sunday was effective. Katie noted that of the increase of 21 pledge units mentioned by David, many were already in the system and hadn't been processed. Kevin reiterated that the best the Finance Team can do is inform the Board what can be tolerated in terms of deficit spending.

3. Green Sanctuary

- Nancy requested that funding related to wind energy be a line item for the church. Bill indicated that this request should be put into the Green Sanctuary budget request.
- Ann indicated that the Green Tomato (a food co-op in Batavia associated with Lucy Atac) requested use of the church for meetings and Bill indicated that this could be scheduled with Katie.

4. Bell Update

- David Tomell said that our bell, which is currently broken, will need to be repaired while it is in place. Jim Jenkins is looking into it and will replace whatever is needed.

5. GU Update

- Bill indicated the environmental analysis was completed and there were no problems. We now know that Pioneer House can be moved and the moving cost would be approximately \$21,000 - \$25,000 depending on whether the house could be moved directly across instead of going on the streets. Additional costs amounting to approximately \$75,000 will be needed to complete the house. Cindy indicated that discussion with a broker indicated that the house on 3rd Street would be easiest to sell when everything has been completed

6. MOM Charter Update

- Lindsay met a week ago with Bill, Dan, and John (MOM Liaison) to discuss the MOM charter. Lindsay has sent everyone the original charter which has been modified to include a clause about confidentiality. The policy is available for review and feedback is welcomed.

7. New Business

- Cindy indicated that May 3 will be "Be Our Guest Day."



Unitarian Universalist
Society of Geneva



- Cindy asked whether Board Members had seen the article in the Spring 2015 issue of UU World on using professionals to manage membership and the relationship to growth in churches.
- Following brief discussion of the need for more fund raising ideas and better communication for pledging, the meeting was concluded.

8. Executive Session

Adjournment 9:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,

John Towell

Secretary