

**Minutes of Board of Directors
Tuesday 10/13/15**

Bill Scown, President
Hal Schulman, VP Admin Council
Debbie Leoni, VP Program Council
Pat Vary, Secretary
Bob Swanson, Treasurer
Kathy Cornell, Director
David Moore, Director
Lynn Steele, Director
Cindy Vacek, Director
the Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates, Senior Minister, ex officio
the Rev. Scott Talbot Lewis, Assistant Minister, ex officio

Absent:

Jim O'Malley, Assistant Treasurer
Katie Phillips, Congregational Administrator

Others Present:

David Tomell
Tracy Rosenkrans

1. Regular Reports

- a. Prior Meeting Minutes (Secretary): approved
- b. Finance (Treasurer): no significant matters this early
- c. Councils (VPs): task force: will discuss below
- d. Senior Minister: no additions to her report
- e. Assistant Minister: "smooth sailing"
- f. Congregational Administrator: on vacation

2. Internship Opportunity

Lindsay Bates and Scott Lewis propose to take on a Meadville/Lombard student to do a two-year half-time internship. Her preference is Geneva, but depends on her husband's job opportunity; they will know in about two weeks. They have three young children and will be moving to Oak Park soon. The internship would begin in August 2016. It would require an intern committee. Debbie Leoni moved and Kathy Cornell seconded a motion to approve. All voted to approve the internship.

3. Acceptance of 3rd Street property vote

Bill Scown reviewed the input from the congregational meeting. A vote is required to finalize a Board decision whether to accept the offer. He reviewed the response from the donor's attorney agreeing to terms. A restriction on a possible mortgage was removed. An in-depth discussion of the valid concerns

and possible value of the property then occurred: whether a tax exemption was possible, how long \$50,000 would/could last, whether it would be possible to find a lessee. Concerns that we could not build a church on the 3rd Street portion, but could allow a commercial building. Our attorney Rick Williams has approved the contract. The restriction on selling the property is only on the 3rd Street property.

Pluses included possible tax exemption that would allow the \$50,000 to last much longer, belief that within the next very few years the City will want the property for public restrooms and information booth, that this gives us a bargaining position to request changes in the easements to allow expansion of the church, and that we will have a professional real estate agent marketing the property for lease. David Tomell was very enthusiastic about the property and felt that it will be an asset for UUSG.

Negatives: Tracy and John Rosenkrans both wrote heartfelt letters read at the meeting citing the negatives of the proposal including that at this moment there are too many conditions attached to this gift and too many "ifs" that may burden the church with years of taxes and maintenance expenses. Points also echoed by Dave Moore and Debbie Leoni.

After much discussion, Cindy Vacek moved to accept the property and Bob Swanson seconded. The vote was 5 to 4 to accept. Yes votes were Pat Vary, Kathy Cornell, Bob Swanson, Cindy Vacek, and Bill Scown. No votes were Dave Moore, Lynn Steele, Hal Schulman and Debbie Leoni.

Pat Vary moved and Cindy Vacek seconded to accept the terms of the agreement worked out by the attorneys and giving Bill Scown the authorization to sign for the Board. That motion was approved unanimously.

4. **UUSG Goals for FY 2016**

Debbie Leoni and Hal Schulman presented the working copy of the Priorities for the year. These Priorities and the Board members (owners) were:

#1 Growth to Achieve Our Vision: in which the aim is to concentrate both on membership growth and the activities toward that end as well as increasing the level of awareness of UUSG in the Fox Valley (Cindy Vacek and Dave Moore).

#2 Make a Positive Difference in our Community: In a Social Justice meeting, the proposal was modified for what is possible this year. These include meeting a goal of 5,000 volunteer hours for BOW, tracking all volunteer hours and continuing the Annual Day of Service plus monthly activities. Discussion included having a possible "progress thermometer" in the Common Room and sign up for the congregation to report volunteer hours wherever they do them. (Bill Scown and Social Justice)

#3 Increased Congregational Engagement: Goals include implementation of the amended planning calendar, increasing worship attendance (Lindsay Bates and Scott Lewis), work toward volunteers involved in at least 1 UUSG function or activity (Cindy Vacek and Dave Moore), leadership development and succession planning (Debbie Leoni and Scott Lewis) and Lifelong Enrichment (Scott Lewis, Eleanor Hamilton, Lynn Steele).

#4 Facility and Staffing That Supports Our Vision: Bill Scown and Pat Vary will re-engage a building task force (Cindy Vacek, David Tomell, Tom Lichtenheld, and Jeff Stibal) to update a high-level plan and share with the congregation. Plans will be made to accomplish fair staff compensation meeting the UUA guidelines in the budget plan for next year (Kathy Cornell and Bob Swanson).

#5 Align Finances to Realize Our Vision: A Stewardship program with canvass and planned giving engaging all Board members (Kathy Cornell), and an Entrepreneurship program with new ideas for fundraising (Bill Scown) and budget and reserves management (Bob Swanson) will be made. Discussion included targeting Entrepreneurship to produce revenue to sustain the 3rd Street property led by (David Tomell, Bob Swanson, and Cindy Vacek) and possible folk concerts that bring people in the door. Bob Swanson stated the finance goal is to bring us out of a deficit position.

All owners are to fill in the remaining question marks in Board Goals within 2 weeks on Oct. 27

5. Leadership training at UUSG

Debbie Leoni and Scott Lewis handed out a questionnaire to all Board members to begin collecting data and suggestions. They asked that we consider leadership of all aspects: adults, kids, congregation, etc.

6. Task Force Planning Calendar Recommendations

The calendar task force has developed a new calendar to better manage deadlines and to align similar processes. Debbie Leoni and Hal Schulman presented the calendar and modifications for introducing implementation during FY15-16. These include:

- a. Quarterly goals will start in January.
- b. Roundtable discussion will probably start in January: Lynn Steele and Deann Alleman will organize and get future leaders engaged. There should be at least one Board member in each one.

There was some discussion on how to disseminate the calendar and share with the congregation. It should be a regular feature of Board meetings.

There being no new business, the meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Vary, Secretary