

Minutes of Board of Directors Tuesday April 12, 2016

Bill Scown, President
Hal Schulman, VP Admin Council
Debbie Leoni, VP Program Council
Pat Vary, Secretary
Bob Swanson, Treasurer
Cindy Vacek, Director
David Moore, Director
Kathy Cornell, Director
Lindsay Bates, Senior Minister, ex officio
Scott Talbot Lewis, Assistant Minister, ex officio
Katie Phillips, Congregational Administrator

Absent:

Jim O'Malley, Assistant Treasurer
Lynn Steele, Director

Others Present:

Jennifer DuBose
Mary Swanson
Kevin O'Neill
Cathi Plass
David Tomell
Kevin Beyer
Tom Lichtenheld

Regular Reports: To save time, all reports were accepted with one motion. Rev. Dr. Lindsay Bates announcing that delegate cards are available for those wishing to attend the regional Assembly.

Plans for a Recognition for Katie – Rev Dr. Bates stated that plans are being made for recognizing Katie Phillips, who is retiring May 15, with Cindy Vacek as point person

Human Library – Mary Swanson asked approval for space on James St. during Swedish Days for a Human Library, which is a world-wide movement begun in 2000 in Denmark to promote monitored conversations in public space to foster understanding. Human “books,” such as gays, lesbians, persons with AIDS, atheists, African Americans, etc. will be at a table for conversations. Jennifer DuBose is in charge of the Geneva effort and is responsible for providing waivers, participants and sponsors. She said that there are now 700 libraries. She has been involved with libraries at Purdue and Chicago. She is reaching out to other churches, the Chamber, etc. and a website is now available. There was some discussion of insurance. Katie will check with our insurance company. It was agreed that this effort is in line with our values. Pat Vary moved that we tentatively agree to the use of James St. space during Swedish Days, Debbie Leoni seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Stucco repair – Tom Lichtenheld presented a request from the Facilities Team for an increased expenditure to repair the stucco. The major damage is where the trees have damaged it and have now been removed. The Team obtained three estimates and approved the one submitted by Jacob Arndt, Northwestern Masonry and Stone. He did the initial stucco work during 2004 and has agreed to train three UUSG members so that future minor repairs can be done by them. The Board had approved \$1500 initially, but because of the more extensive damage, the current bid is for \$7500. The Facilities Team is also requesting a 10% contingency in case of unexpected expenses, bringing the total request for additional funding to \$6750. With tight scheduling, Mr.

Arndt is available May 5-7. After some discussion, Kathy Cornell moved and Bob Swanson seconded, and the Board approved the \$6750 increase unanimously.

Pledge Drive Update – Kevin Beyer reported that as of the meeting 90 households had pledged. That number is less than half of the number of households that had pledged last year. There were a significant amount of pledges that were increased over the previous year, which the Stewardship Team is taking as a good sign. Kathy Cornell said that the Welcoming Team is reaching out to new members with emails and phone calls. One problem in reaching people is that several schools are on Spring Break.

FY2016-2017 Draft Budget – Kevin O'Neill reviewed the process that will be used to develop a draft budget to be presented at the April 26 Budget meeting. A subcommittee of the Board, consisting of Bill Scown, Bob Swanson, Dave Moore, and Kevin O'Neill, will meet on April 24 and submit a budget to the Board by April 25. Results of the Budget meeting on April 26 will produce a revised version that will be presented at the Annual Meeting. The final budget will be determined at the June Board meeting. Hal Schulman asked that there be no cuts in staff and Pat Vary put in a word for including a choir director. Debbie Leoni moved to accept the process, Kathy Cornell seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Building Expansion Planning Process – Pat Vary presented a power point outline based on the work of the 2013 Task Force and the book "When Not to Build" by a church architect. It was a presentation of a process that the church could follow to determine the possibility of expansion of the building, based on Congregational meetings, and determination of size and costs involved. There are four milestones that must be in place to go forward: (1) A Balanced budget, (2) Adequate staffing, (3) Steady growth, and (4) Congregational support. Action depends on successful pledge drives. It was the general consensus that this is not yet the time to initiate the process.

Search for a new Church Administrator – Dr. Rev. Lindsay Bates reported that Neill Shanahan and she are interviewing applicants.

Annual Meeting planning – Bill Scown outlined a possible schedule for preparing for the Annual Meeting. The Bylaws changes have been approved, a slate of candidates chosen and a notice will be published by April 14 and put on the website. The congregation can petition for others to be included on the slate. The Budget subcommittee will draft a budget on April 24, it will be reviewed at the April 26 Budget Board meeting and published by April 30 for the Annual Meeting packet. On May 1, the Finance Team will meet. On May 10, the Board will meet and May 15 will be the Annual Meeting for the Congregation. At the June 14 Board Meeting, the final budget will be determined and published.

Leadership Orientation and Board Retreat – Hal Schulman reported plans for both these sessions on June 18. The Leadership Orientation portion is for all new Board and Ministry Team Leaders including all current Board and Ministry Team Leaders, and will be for 1.5 hours. The Board Retreat portion will follow the Orientation solely for new and current Board Members. They will look at the year, identify expertise, and set the stage and priorities for the year.

Board Blog – Debbie Leoni will write the blog this month on the Annual Meeting.

New Business and Future Agenda Items – The Board is scheduled to lead Social Hour on April 24 and Debbie Leoni volunteered to organize volunteers.

Pizza Booth – Mary Swanson and Tom Russo will be co-managers of the Pizza Booth

Hal Schulman is leading the discussions with the Geneva History Museum about their request to use UUSG in an emergency for secure space and office space 1 week up to 2 months to regroup.

The Board then went into Executive Session. Board adjourned at 9:25pm.