

**Minutes of Board of Directors
Tuesday Sept. 11, 2016**

Present:

Jean Pierce, President
Debbie Leoni, 1st VP
Nancy Christensen, 2nd VP
Pat Vary, Secretary
Bob Swanson, Treasurer
Cindy Vacek, Director
David Moore, Director
Kathy Cornell, Director
Gail Tattersfield, Director
Lindsay Bates, Senior Minister, ex officio
Scott Talbot Lewis, Assistant Minister, ex officio
Christine Imielski, Congregational Administrator ex officio
Cathy Plass, Director of Religious Education
Tekla Mach, ex officio
Emily Plass, ex officio
Kenna Powell, ex officio
Tyler Saam, ex officio

Others Present:

Jeff Stibal
Hal Schulman

Opening Meditation/Reflection was led by Gail Tattersfield.

Future meditations: October: Kathy Cornell; November: Rev. Scott Talbot Lewis; December: Nancy Christensen.

The Board members welcomed Tekla Mach, Emily Plass, Kenna Powell and Tyler Saam as High School Board observers.

Regular reports. To save time we accept all reports with one motion unless a board member requests a separate discussion. Prior meeting minutes and monthly finance report were approved.

Cindy Vacek is stepping down from organizing the Picnic. She has done this for 10 years and has helped it grow from 41 attendees to over 221 this last Sunday. Thank you Cindy!

Jean Pierce went over the proposed Board Visitor Policy that gives guidelines for visitors and states that the Board has the right to limit time of unscheduled business presentations and actions. After some discussion, Bob Swanson moved, and Dave Moore seconded and it passed with seven yes, two no votes.

Status of the 3rd Street Property – Bob Swanson reported that the City of Geneva has put consideration of renting the property on hold for now, If the City comes back later, we will revisit their proposal. However, he reminded the Board that we have a maintenance fund for the property of over \$36,000 and that the committee plans to now pursue a request for tax exemption for church use and will also approach the park district about possible uses. Meanwhile, the property has generated about \$4000 in rental. After discussions of possible uses such as RE activities during good weather or a possible labyrinth for meditation, or parking spaces. A resolution to use the property for Religious Education activities was moved by Debbie Leoni, seconded by Cindy Vacek, and passed unanimously.

The 3rd Street Property committee (Bob Swanson and Bill Scown, David Tomell and Cindy Vacek) has established a fee structure for rental of the property: \$1000 for a weekend, \$250 for weekday, and gratis for one day of setup and one day of take down. Cindy Vacek moved to approve the plans and fee structure, Debbie Leoni seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Leadership Development and the 360UU Program

Debbie Leoni reported on progress in Leadership Development and the Webinar program viewed prior to the meeting by the members of the Board. There is a nine-month 360UU program developed by All Souls UU Church in Tulsa, OK, and the UUA for Leadership Development. It includes instruction and facilitators at a cost of about \$5800. However the application is due by Friday, Sept.16 and only five churches will be selected. Much discussion revolved around the cost, the short time to apply, our own plans, the focus of the Stewardship committee and our inability this year to finance a balanced budget. It was agreed that we should see how the first year of the 360UU program progresses. Meanwhile, we need to allow our own approach to develop, including nurturing more stewards to actively participate in church activities with a growing sense of community. A benchmark of next July was decided upon to evaluate the 360 program and our own Stewardship and Leadership initiatives. This approach was moved by Kathy Cornell and seconded by Bob Swanson and passed unanimously.

Calendar issues –Addressing the 1st Congregational Goal, the Board discussed the value of setting numerical Growth goals and how we can best measure the success of our church program. We are now at a membership of 324. Where do we want to be in five years? What strategies would be successful to increase member commitment, new leaders, volunteers, and our commitment to a second minister? Adult enrichment? Stewardship initiatives? Social Justice? Diversity? Easier volunteering opportunities? More opportunities such as the Food Bank, and Lazarus House? Would a 3rd service help? Since growth has remained relatively flat for the past 12 years, it was suggested that—rather than a numeric goal, it might make sense to set goals of strengthening programs such as Stewardship and Leadership Development. The Stewardship Team was asked to share the goal they create for increasing Stewards.

Assembling a basket for the Auction – the Auction on Saturday, Nov. 5th is the major fund-raiser of the year. Jean Pierce proposed that the Board fill a basket with goodies such as a promise to contribute 3 dozen cookies, cook a dish for a potluck, donate theater tickets or purchase gift cards. Bob Swanson recommended a dinner catered by the Board and held at the Swanson house. A decision will be made via email.

Timeline for Ministerial Search – Rev. Lindsay Bates assured the Board that there is no need to start planning for her retirement until the Fall of 2018, at which time the UU Dept. of Ministry and regional advisors will meet with the Board and explain the process including what to offer the one or even two interim minister(s). They may recommend possibly two because of the long time we have had the same minister and it would expose us to differing ways of successfully ministering). We are a healthy church and will have no problem finding a new minister. She gave us the url that we can reference for information.

http://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/transitional_ministry.pdf
<http://www.uua.org/careers/ministers/transitions/150364.shtml>

New Business and Future Agenda Items. A very patient Jeff Stibal presented a serious problem with the Church telephone system, which is now obsolete. Staff and Ministers can receive phone calls, but cannot call out. A technician (for \$112) has temporarily bypassed the system so that Christine Imielski can call out, but no one else can.

Jeff has researched our options and outlined three: 1. Replace present lines with limited capabilities, 2. Voice-over internet, a computer network (AT&T has a business plan) or 3. Cell phones. Jeff favors Voice-over internet, or cell phones, but after some discussion, will research further. Meanwhile church members need to be aware of the problem.

Upcoming Events:

The October Board Blog will be written by Nancy Christensen.

**The Board will be hosting coffee hour this next Sunday, Sept. 25.
Gail Tattersfield will be point person**

It was announced that the Stewardship lunch is on Saturday, Sept. 17 at 12 noon.

Aaron Fogleman, professor of American History, will present a talk at 2pm Sunday on “America’s War for the Greater Middle East: A Military History.”

On Tues. Sept. 20, A new Ken Burns film “Defying the Nazis” will be shown
It is a story with UU connections about a UU Minister and his wife rescuing those

in danger from the Nazi's in 1939.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Submitted by Pat Vary, Board Secretary.