

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana

Seeking the Spirit, Building Community, Changing the World



Board Minutes
March 11, 2015

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Attending: Kathleen Sideli, Von Welch, Arzetta Hulst-Losensky, Ann LeDuc, Doug Cauble, Deb Hutton, Pat Brantlinger

Ex-officios: Reverend Mary Ann Macklin, Reverend Emily Manvel-Leite, and Reverend Doug Wadkins

By invitation of the Board: Judy Bennett

Submitted by Ann LeDuc, Secretary

I. Call to Order 6:33 PM

Call to order by Kathleen Sideli, President, at 6:33 PM

Changes to the agenda: None

II. Chalice Lighting and Reading

Chalice lighting and reading by Doug Cauble.

III. Check-in

Attendance and check-in.

IV. Main Meeting

A. Approval of Previous Board Minutes

Changes to the February 2015 Board meeting minutes were made as follows: Where it was stated on page 3, "First we will look at the numerical ranking of nominees" was deleted.

Motion by Von: to approve the February 2015 Board of Directors meeting minutes with the change.

Seconded by Arzetta.

Vote: approved unanimously.

B. Staff Report Judy Bennett, Connections Coordinator

See attached membership report.

The Membership report is part of our monthly monitoring.

<http://www.uubloomington.org/uuch/govt/boardpolicies.pdf>

I. All Ends Statement Policies

Judy's new title of Connections Coordinator has met with approval from herself and members of the congregation.

An Exploring UU History class, led by Stuart Yoak, has been added as an option to the Exploring UU class. The new history class is open to the whole congregation.

UU history information, written by Elof Carlson, will be available on our new website. The new website will hopefully be available by the end of March.

Excellent opportunities for new members to get involved with the church include Greeting and at the book table.

In the Exploring UU class, Judy discusses the serious nature of signing the membership book.

Judy continues to have difficulty finding rides to church for persons without transportation.

C. Minister's Report Reverend Mary Ann Macklin

During Reverend Macklin's visit to Selma, the UU Living Legacy Project did a great job of helping ministers experience the past, present, and think about the future.

Planned Giving continues to grow. Our annual giving campaign will start soon.

Judy has submitted notice of her retirement. Shari Woodbury will be our acting Connections Coordinator for next year.

Reverend Macklin and Reverend Wadkins are reviewing staff and ministerial duties in light of the plan to hire an Associate Minister.

An Inter-Cultural Competency Workshop will be held at the church on March 27th and 28th. It is an introduction to cultural and racism study.

IU is having a teach-in on Black Lives Matter on March 26th.

D. Old Business

1. Minister Emeritus Working Group (MEWG) Update Deb Hutton

The MEWG have been enjoying great discussions. Deb feels like it has been valuable in helping Reverend Breeden to work through this time of absence.

2. Weapons policy review Doug Cauble

During a recent meeting, the weapons policy committee took under consideration several possible policies.

It was determined that more congregational education and input is needed. This will occur in the coming months.

The board is very appreciative of the time the committee has put into the issue and realizes that this is not a simple issue.

3. Attorney search update Kathleen Sideli

Von communicated with Guy Loftman and gathered a description of the duties our church legal counsel performs.

Kathy will contact a few individuals regarding finding legal counsel for the church.

E. New Business

1. Letter to the Stewardship Committee Kathleen Sideli

The annual stewardship letter from the board has been prepared. This year's stewardship theme is "Play Your Part."

2. Religious Education ContinUUing Connections All

A meeting took place on March 1st to discuss the religious education program's involvement in ContinUUing Connections

Current strategies that have been put in place using ContinUUing Connections include forming connections between our youth and adults, and helping youth to clarify their personal beliefs.

The ContinUUing Connections team is working on a plan that includes gathering input from parents about what they want for their youth.

The Board strongly supports the decisions of the ContinUUing Connections team.

3. Mid America Regional Assembly All

The Mid America Regional Assembly will take place in Naperville, Illinois on April 17th and 18th. A small group of congregants, including Doug and Julie Cauble, plan to attend.

4. Green Spaces Capital Campaign All

The campaign ended in June 2014.

\$35K is due at the end of May and another \$5K at the end of June.

Kathy will assist Arzetta in writing a communication to pledgers.

It was agreed to approach SPF for funds to cover the loans in the event the pledges are not repaid.

V. Executive Session

The board met in executive session at 8:09.

VI. Adjournment 9:51 PM

Motion by Arzetta: to adjourn by Arzetta.

Seconded by Doug Cauble.

Vote: approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:51 PM.

REPORT TO BOARD FROM CONNECTIONS COORDINATOR

March 11, 2015

Membership 12/31/2013	492
Membership Jan 2015	468
Membership 3/11/2015	475

We had 27 new members in 2014, as compared with 32 in 2013 and 50 in 2011. February of this year we had 8 sign, and 1 previous member returned (from 15 years ago).

In the Fall 2013 we conducted our annual roll review and sent out letters to 69 individuals inquiring about their continued interest in the church. This year, for the first time, we included a stamped addressed postcard with options to check. 37 people did not respond or were noted as undeliverable. The letter indicated that if we did not get a response by a given date we would remove them from the role. These, together with people who wished to resign, totaled 51 members removed from roles.

In 2015 we have lost 4 members due to death.

The Exploring UU class has been popular! 9 folks in October of whom 4 became members, and 12 in January 2015, with 2 of them joining so far. We added a third optional class to the sequence for those who wanted more UU history.

Average attendance for 2014 was 368, compared with 386 in 2013. This is the number reported to UUA which is adults and children total.

We had about 155 guests registered during 2014, which is about 8% fewer than the previous calendar year. This does not seem to be very significant considering that there are always new people who do not want to give us their info and these numbers are just the best we can do without becoming the UU welcome police! In January 2015 it seemed as though many people who had not attended service in a long time came back.

With the new live streaming system we are going to be able to really track our data and even see where people are logging in and for how long. We have some faithful viewers in New Jersey who seem to be regulars.

Also new- to try and bolster our hospitality during coffee hour I have scheduled Fellowship Hour Hosts who have been asked to just be social with those who look lost or are standing alone. They have no duties to replenish coffee, just be good hosts.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Bennett
Connections Coordinator