

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana

Seeking the Spirit, Building Community, Changing the World



Board Minutes

May 11, 2016

| | |
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| I. CALL TO ORDER 7:03 PM | 2 |
| II. CHALICE LIGHTING AND READING | 2 |
| III. CHECK-IN | 2 |
| IV. MAIN MEETING | 2 |
| A. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS BOARD MINUTES | 2 |
| B. APPROVAL OF APRIL 24 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES | 2 |
| C. MINISTER'S REPORT REVEREND MARY ANN MACKLIN | 2 |
| D. OLD BUSINESS | 3 |
| 1. DEBRIEF OF APRIL 24 SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING | 3 |
| 2. STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE DREW SCHRADER BY PHONE | 3 |
| 3. GUIDELINES FOR HEALTHY COMMUNICATIONS PAT | 4 |
| 4. SPF UPDATE: DIVESTMENT AND PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE VON AND ARZETTA | 4 |
| E. NEW BUSINESS | 4 |
| 1. LEADERSHIP CULTIVATION COMMITTEE UPDATE | 4 |
| 2. PLANNING FOR JUNE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING | 5 |
| 3. VAN TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN COLUMBUS, OHIO | 5 |
| V. EXECUTIVE SESSION | 5 |
| VI. ADJOURNMENT 8:55 PM | 5 |

Board members attending: Kathleen Sideli, Von Welch, Arzetta Hults-Losensky, Deb Hutton, Ann LeDuc, Doug Cauble (by Skype), Pat Brantlinger

Not attending:

Present by invitation of the Board: Drew Schrader (by phone)

Ministers attending: Reverend Mary Ann Macklin and Reverend Doug Wadkins

Submitted by Ann LeDuc, Secretary

I. Call to Order 7:03 PM

Call to order by Kathleen Sideli, President, at 7:03 PM

Changes to the agenda: None

II. Chalice Lighting and Reading

Chalice lighting and reading by Ann.

III. Check-in

Attendance and check-in.

IV. Main Meeting

A. Approval of Previous Board Minutes

Motion by Deb: to approve the April Board of Directors Meeting minutes.

Seconded by Von.

Vote: approved unanimously.

B. Approval of April 24 Congregational Meeting Minutes

Motion by Arzetta: To approve the April 24, 2016 special congregational meeting minutes.

Seconded by Pat.

Vote: approved unanimously.

C. Minister's Report Reverend Mary Ann Macklin

Reverend Macklin continues to make connections throughout the community. Recent connection opportunities included a Monroe County United Ministries fundraiser, the interfaith Holocaust remembrance event, and at the IU graduate graduation.

The adult education class, *Owning Your Religious Past*, was a full class with 20 participants.

Many staff members have been out of the office this week for both planned and unplanned reasons. Arzetta has been very helpful to Reverend Macklin this week while Carol Marks has been away.

Reverend Barbara Carlson will be in Bloomington June through August. She is willing to help out with ministerial duties.

Once Reverend McNeill begins as our Associate Minister, there will be a covenant created among all the ministers.

A Planned Giving luncheon is planned for October 2. Board members are encouraged to attend.

Conversations and research about how to remedy the glare from the round window are ongoing.

Reverend Macklin shared the contract from the Sacred Dying Foundation for offering vigil training at the church. (<http://www.sacreddying.org/>) The Board agreed that it may be a good first step in building a relationship with Paige Freitag, church legal counsel, to have her review the contract.

There are grants available through the Center for Congregations. (<https://centerforcongregations.org/grants-initiatives>)

D. Old Business

1. Debrief of April 24 Special Congregational Meeting

a) Membership Sign-ins

We did as well as we could have, under the circumstances, with membership sign-ins at the congregational meeting. However, well-defined guidelines about member sign-ins would be helpful for the future.

One possibility would be provisional ballots to be checked to ascertain membership status at a later time.

We may want to communicate to congregants that a book signing will take place the morning of, or day before the meeting, rather than at sign-in for the meeting.

b) Parliamentary Practices

There was a discussion about parliamentary process and varying interpretations of Robert's Rules of Order.

Our process for having a committee make a motion was done correctly, since the motion was seconded. A congregant wrote to indicate that a motion made by anyone, even a committee, must always be seconded.

For future congregational meetings, we may need to have another parliamentarian in mind in case Guy Loftman is unavailable.

2. Stewardship Campaign Update Drew Schrader by phone

Pledges are at a similar level as compared to this time last year. This means there will most likely be no substantial increase in income over last year. We may need to create giving opportunities outside of pledging, possibly aimed at a specific item, need, or program. But that doesn't resolve the problem of covering operational costs.

If we reduce the projected pledging total to \$540K, we will not be able to give any raises to staff. We will be specific at the congregational meeting at pointing out what will be cut.

There was a discussion about contacting members who have not pledged yet. Reminder cards will be sent to those who have not yet pledged, asking if they are unable to pledge this year.

Many pledges are the same or less this year than last year. Most pledges did not increase by the requested 7%.

3. Guidelines for Healthy Communications Pat

Pat distributed the third HC guidelines document for review by the Board. We will pass our previous comments and the comments on this document onto Pat.

4. SPF Update: Divestment and proposed Bylaw change Von and Arzetta

SPF has agreed to take a significant step towards fossil fuel divestment. A significant amount of funds will be divested and an option to make divested donations to SPF will be created. Money that was donated in the past can be divested upon request.

As a separate unrelated issue to divestment, at the April 28th SPF meeting the following bylaw change was endorsed:

In section 7.6, replace the sentence *“The assets of such Endowment shall not be invaded but shall be held in perpetuity.”* with the sentence *“The assets of such Endowment shall be managed in accord with the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act.”*

Rationale: The existing wording was commonly used to express the intention of endowment management in decades long past. It fails to capture the dynamics of investment practice, such as possible investment losses, the need for occasional investment profile changes, and the possibility of short-term loans to the church. UPMIFA, as the Act referred to in the motion is commonly called, was crafted at the national level to align with prevailing responsible practice. It has been enacted by most states, including Indiana in 2007, to provided legal guidelines for the management, investment, and expenditures of charitable institution endowments.

Motion by Von: to approve that the congregation consider this bylaw change at the June 12 meeting

Seconded by Arzetta.

Vote: Unanimously approved.

This bylaw change will be an action item at the June congregational meeting.

E. New Business

1. Leadership Cultivation Committee Update

Danny Callison was unable to attend the Board meeting due to illness.

The proposed Board slate to ratify at the June congregational meeting is:

Von Welch- President

Ann LeDuc- Vice President

Deb Hutton- Secretary

Helmut Henschel - At-large

Pat Brantlinger will remain an At-large Board member for a second term.

Chris Haynes will remain as the SPF Chair.

The Finance Committee needs another member.

Arzetta will continue to work as the CFO after her term on the Board ends. Over the next year, she will work with Helmut Hentschel to prepare him to become Board Treasurer.

Danny Callison and Matt Stonecipher are very proactive in their Leadership Cultivation endeavors.

2. Planning for June Congregational Meeting

Arzetta will not be able to attend the June congregational meeting. Von will present the budget in Arzetta's absence.

3. Van to General Assembly in Columbus, Ohio

The church will sponsor a van to General Assembly (GA) on June 25. Phil Cooper will drive the van. Deb will be the contact person for reserving a seat on the van.

Ann will write a Prologue article about the van.

Riders will be required to pay for a one-day GA registration (\$150).

Current reserved seats are Glenda Breeden, Sharon Yarber, Deb Hutton, Sheri Benham, and Kathy Sideli.

V. Executive Session

The board met in executive session at 8:41.

VI. Adjournment 8:55 PM

Motion by Von: to Adjourn.

Seconded by Deb.

Vote: approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM!

At the April 28th SPF meeting the following bylaw change was endorsed and the SPF requests the Board's endorsement and it be placed on the agenda at June 2016 congregation meeting.

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More information:

- <http://www.upmifa.org/>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uniform_Prudent_Management_of_Institutional_Funds_Act