

## UU Board Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2016

Present: Janis Shinn, Annette Pratt, Laura McBride, Scott Daigle, Christopher Bailey, Dawn Daniels

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 pm

### **1. Chalice lighting:** Laura

### **2. Welcome and check-in**

Laura welcomed the members, and Dawn read a piece on courage from "Wake up" by Tom Owen-Towle. Members shared something about themselves at this point.

### **3. Consent Agenda**

Laura: all reports were received in time, and there are no items to vote on. The content of the minister's report was mentioned specifically. Chris suggested that we need to have a plan about voting. It might be a month process. Laura pointed out that this is something we need to discuss further as a board. We can make a recommendation in terms of what we agree on as a board. Chris pointed out that we also have to consult with the congregation. There was a consensus that we begin to discuss this in January, and the decision related to Dawn will be made then.

Following Scott's suggestion that Dawn talk about this to other people at the congregation for the sake of transparency, further discussion ensued. Dawn said she has no problem reporting this to the congregation. Laura proposed that we make an announcement at the Fellowship Life meeting and then have something go out in the e-news. Scott suggested including a notice that Dawn's plan about seminary has changed. Dawn explained that, because she is not officially in the first level with the UUA, there is no violation of any rules, as she is not in the pipeline to go through all the levels of the covenant. Laura asked if Dawn can yet ever fellowship with them in the long run, and Dawn replied that this is up in the air now, but it is possible down the road. The requirement is an MA degree in divinity or equivalent. Laura explains that ordination comes from us, while fellowship comes from the UUA. When we had Joe, he was further along in this process. Dawn explained that ordination by a congregation has no bearing on whether one gets fellowshipped. Following further discussion, Laura suggested that she and Dawn should also compose an email. Scott said to make sure the email makes clear that Dawn is not leaving and that the board is still supporting her.

The group voted to approve the consent agenda, and it was approved.

Laura suggested taking item 4 out of old business for now (~~ie~~ the assigned reading). Consensus.

### **4.a.i. Treasurer's report**

Chris summarized the quarterly report. There was a bank statement since the report was sent. This update is on the back. A formal report on this will be given in November. Kirsten was basically paid for 4 months (see comment # 3 on the handout). She now receives fixed pay rather than hourly. If she goes over her hours, she notifies us. Chris explained that the contract specifies 12 payments per year, for

approximately 5 hours per week, and this is equivalent to a certain amount per hour. If she works beyond the regular activities listed, she gets \$18 per hour (see pink insert in the UU handbook).

Chris made some comments/corrections about what the finance team does, to go into the handbook. Norma Bailey is the keeper of changes for the handbook (see first gray section of the book). Notably, the chair of the finance team is the current treasurer. There was consensus to just cut # 3 in that section of the handbook. Also, under the policies for the treasurer's duties, #8 needs to be corrected. The 3<sup>rd</sup> person is just the assistant treasurer. We are currently not doing the things listed there, and a third person could be designated by the board.

Laura added that we can also take out the reference to the years. Chris added that, also on the first page on the top, where the finance team is described, the current treasurer needs to be included in that team.

Laura explained that Chris received a check for \$56.10, which is the money collected so far from the scrap metal drive. The donations get added to the \$170 listed in the table on page 2.

#### **4.a.ii Karen Turnbull request**

Laura read the letter and request to the group about water issues in Michigan, the Enbridge Pipeline V, the issue of injection wells, and Nestlé taking water for Ice Mountain. Karen has put together a power point on these issues. We discussed whether we would like her to present her presentation at a sponsored event for the congregation. We would let her use the building for free, and we can invite community members. Norma has offered to help her with getting other groups to attend and help with the PR. Dawn reminded the group that this falls under the social justice team. Laura said that we can vote to show that the board supports this, and then she can take it up with Norma. **Moved (Bechtold/Shinn) to support. Motion carried.** Laura will send an email to Karen.

#### **4.b Old business**

Audio-visual needs: Scott contacted a couple of vendors, and only ABC had the required expertise. It is difficult to get a large TV that mirrors what one does on a laptop. It is better to buy a newer model smart TV of 55" that does not need outside speakers. A smart TV now has WIFI or Bluetooth. We still have to download an app. Annette asked what to do about people who do not have smart phones. Dawn explained that enough of us have smart phones. Scott clarified that you can hook it up with a smart phone or Bluetooth. Furthermore, a newer smart TV has a lot of built-in apps. So it can be used to just show something from YouTube, for example. Dawn asked if it needs to be synched with our audio. Scott replied that it probably does not need outside speakers. The newer TVs are solely operated and have Bluetooth, and thus can be used with a wireless keyboard. The LG model seems to meet all of our needs. The total cost including with the mount: \$1195.68. They usually charge \$50 mounting fee + probably 2 more hours.

Laura asked: what about still having a digital system that we can use in the fellowship hall? We do have a portable screen. Can we use another projector system for the fellowship hall? Scott replied: to have something a bit more portable, one can just buy a really big monitor and anyone can use his/her own laptop. Another downside for projectors is that it needs to be dark for them to work properly. Even a smaller TV will be crystal clear and will be easier to watch. Dawn said that it could be mounted on the

wall by the kitchen. Scott added that we could consider a permanent mount for it. Laura said that maybe the RE people would also like to have the flexibility of using it in the green room.

Dawn proposed that maybe we can get a comparable size small TV setup for the green room. Laura added that then we just need the required adapters. She asked whether the Smart TV has a CD-rom. Scot answered no, but those only cost about \$25.

Scott proposed we just go ahead and do it. \$1300 would do it. Laura asked how much it would cost if we add a monitor and bracket. Scott replied that then it would be about \$1500. **Moved (Daigle/Pratt) to go ahead.** Discussion ensued. Scott said there would not be much price differential with other vendors. Laura mentioned that we probably need a second bid so we can follow the board policy. (Above a certain amount, we need three comparison prices according to the bids and comparison pricing policy). Scott will look into it.

Laura asked about WIFI access, as she cannot get it in the green room. Scott will look into this as well.

## **ii. Endowment discussion**

The group looked at the proposal presented by Scott to take some of our savings to implement it. We need to have a group of people who oversee the endeavor. Scott proposes to make it the responsibility of the finance committee. The way to make it grow is to contribute on a regular basis. No one can act upon it without the board's approval. Basically we buy shares in this big already existing endowment, and \$10,000 will buy a certain number of shares. We fill out a form with our name and our federal ID number. The only rule that is strange is the following: if we dissolve without taking the money first, they get to keep the money. So we have to make a note of this and include it as a reminder in the Handbook. Scott proposed that we should have a congregational vote. Also we should go in with the minimum and make it a part of our annual budget; i.e.; we could commit 1% of our annual budget to this. It is required to designate a disbursement, and we can just make that zero, which is allowable for this endowment. We can leave it at zero until we have something that we want to use the endowment money for.

Laura: we told the congregation that we would inform them about this. I would like to separate it from the stewardship drive. Scott said he likes the idea of paying the future version of ourselves. He proposed to write this up as a proposal. Laura said we would combine this business with the November Fellowship Life meeting. Laura proposed to move the business meeting about the endowment to December 4<sup>th</sup>. Because of this vote, this will then primarily be a business meeting. Scott will make an announcement on Sunday.

## **iii. Social media in-service update (Laura and Dawn).**

Laura and Dawn: we talked about having a few mini trainings, i.e., having a couple of stations around the room, to demonstrate things such as Instagram, Snap Chat, etc. We do not yet have a date, but we are getting there.

## **5. Updates/Announcements**

**a. Tickler:** Laura reviewed the tickler calendar for October and November. She talked about an agenda item for November. The finance team needs required budgets from teams' liaisons by the deadline of December 30. Make sure all the liaisons know. The past president or designee will lead the stewardship drive. Dawn will have a mid-year evaluation with Kirsten in November. Anna also will be evaluated.

Dawn pointed out that Christmas and New Year are both on Sundays, and the services will be evening services on the evening before (Saturdays). There will be no morning service either Sunday, and there will be a social gathering after the service on December 31.

**5.b. Fellowship Life agenda**

All the things on the agenda were approved, and it was suggested to add the seminary announcement (Dawn and Laura). Scott suggested adding an endowment fund announcement.

**5.c.** Laura read the message from Elizabeth Ann Terry thanking us for our Annual Program Fund donation.

There were no further announcements.

The meeting adjourned at 8:14

Respectfully submitted,

Brigitte Bechtold, secretary pro temp