

Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church Meeting of the Board of Trustees

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held at Unitarian House with the following Trustees in attendance: Mark Tomlinson, President; Betty Luff, Vice President; Donald Zeilman, Clerk; Matt Merriman-Preston; Andy Schwarz; Ex officio: Rev. David McFarland, not present. Mac McMahan, Treasurer, excused. Ellen Kerr participated via speaker-phone for a portion of the meeting.

I Gathering

Mr. Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM, Mrs. Luff shared words for the chalice lighting. Clerk determined that there was a quorum present at the call to order.

II Administration

1. Minutes of the April 2 meeting were distributed electronically for review. There were no comments or corrections.
2. Minister's Report: Reverend McFarland, distributed electronically. Mr. Tomlinson notes that Rev. McFarland's Goals and Milestones for Allegheny's mission in 2013-14 (and responsibilities) is a newly created synthesis that should be carefully reviewed and will continue as points of discussion at the June Board meeting and at the Board retreat.
3. Financial Report: Mr. McMahan previously submitted report electronically. Mr. Tomlinson notes that the discrepancy in the offering line has yet to be resolved.
4. Stewardship: Mr. Tomlinson notes that we currently have \$54K in commitments; that we have 27 units pledging (three are new) which is an increase of 8% over last year; that we are expecting to hear from an additional eight members who may pledge up to \$20K. He further notes that we are headed toward a total of \$75K. No pledge has been received to date from the most recent new member class.
5. Report of the Clerk: Mr. Zeilman states that membership stands at 78.

Reports accepted by assent.

III Business

1. Sabbatical Committee: Ms. Kerr reports that the Committee has met and has established a regular monthly meeting. Committee suggests that a sabbatical newsletter be published, which will include a discussion of Rev. McFarland's sabbatical project. There will be a presentation at the Annual Congregational Meeting (30 minutes) to answer questions and discuss opportunities. Committee recommends that we present/post a staff list with photos in the church vestibule. Mr. Zeilman (House) to assist and coordinate.

2. Committee on Ministry: Mr. Snowden will be stepping off of the Committee, and a candidate has been put forward by the Minister and President.

Motion by Mr. Zeilman to approve church member, Greg Blackman as the next Committee on Ministry member. Second, Mr. Merriman-Preston.

Motion Carries

3. District Assembly Update: Mr Tomlinson reports that this DA was held jointly with the St. Lawrence District, but with separate business meetings. There is going to be a District dues increase from \$24 to \$30 per member over the next few years. Liz Dell is now a member of the District Nominating Committee. At DA, it was reported that the Association's Program Fund will be changing from an assessment based on member numbers to one based on budgeted expenses. Mr. Tomlinson notes that this may have an averse effect on Allegheny with our high staff expenses and small member numbers. Board agrees that this should be watched closely and that more information will be needed.

4. Endowment Fund Contribution: Mr Tomlinson notes that this is a continuation of the discussion from the last Board meeting. Further discussion is needed, and the Board is not ready to bring any recommendations to the Annual Meeting.

Mrs. Luff notes that the Endowment Committee has been preparing informational and marketing materials to better inform the congregation and to promote participation in the fund.

Resolved: A contribution to the fund from church savings is still under discussion, and there will be no recommendation or vote at the Annual Meeting. Further, that the issue be brought up again at the next Board meeting.

5. Annual Meeting: Mr. Zeilman notes that we have complete slates of candidates for both the Board and the Endowment Committee.

The Exec Team met with Finance Committee members to finalize the budget, providing the necessary Board input into the budget process.

Discussion: What will be the most effective way to present and discuss the budget? Mr. Tomlinson will approach individual Finance Committee members about making the presentation. Board agrees that a mission budget is a worthy goal.

IV Adjournment

Mr. Tomlinson adjourned the meeting at 9:15 PM and the chalice was extinguished.

Next meeting, June 4, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,



Donald G. Zeilman, Clerk 2012-13