

## 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; Liz Dell, Vice President, Mac McMahon, Treasurer; Donald Zeilman, Clerk; Matt Merriman-Preston; Jane Schwarz; Gail Ward.

Ex officio: Rev. David McFarland.

### I Gathering

Mr. Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm, Rev. McFarland shared words for the chalice lighting. A quorum was present at the call to order.

### II Administration

1. Minutes of the July 2 meeting were distributed electronically for review. One correction made to Item 1 under Business: “and Finance Committee” struck, and “for end of Contract Year (August)” inserted. No additional changes or corrections.
2. Financial Report: Mr. McMahon, no report submitted for this meeting.
3. Minister’s Report: Reverend McFarland, no formal report this month (on leave). Mr. Tomlinson noted that a regular meeting between the President and Minister has been discussed and initiated.
4. Report of the Clerk: Mr. Zeilman distributed prior to the meeting, an updated member list, and the current Allegheny page from the District Directory, as updated.

### **Reports accepted by assent.**

### III Business

1. Partner Church Agreement: Rev. McFarland. Rev. McFarland (Allegheny) and Rev. David Herndon (First Church) have been working on developing a Partner Church Agreement, whereby staff would be delegated “the responsibility for choosing and developing areas of cooperation and collaboration ...” between the churches, with projects chosen from a proposed list of areas. Outcome reporting is built into the agreement. The agreement acknowledges the differing size and culture of the two congregations. Rev. McFarland supports the effort.

Noted: Agreement has no direct financial component, is a model based on our UU tradition, responds to changing middle judicatory structures and resources in the UUA, support staff and volunteers will be involved in addition to the ministers, makes explicit a long-held general commitment to cooperation, the two “urban churches” are involved as a pilot project, and both Boards will have to approve the agreement.

Is part of the answer to how can UUism be best served in Pittsburgh.

Mr. Tomlinson notes the cultural differences and the possible perception that Allegheny would become less “independent.” Rev. McFarland replies that the two congregations are different enough to allow them to function separately and still focus on collaboration.

Collaboration is needed for growth, especially in the areas of marketing and communications.

Questions for further discussion: How will the proposal be presented to the congregation? And how do we determine if it needs to be voted on by the congregation?

Mr. Tomlinson tables the Partner Church Agreement discussion until the next Board meeting to allow the Trustees the opportunity to review the document, and to try and have Rev. Herndon join the discussion.

2. Use of Facilities by Student Group: Mr. Tomlinson reports that the church has been contacted by a student group asking to stay at Unitarian House while in Pittsburgh for a weekend-long training summit. He further notes that since it is for their educational purposes and not for community service, they probably should provide the church with some compensation. Also asks Board to consider how such a use fits within our Mission.

Detail: Fifteen students for three nights, sleeping and access to building, no showers

Mr. Zeilman notes that such an effort requires “people resources,” especially from the House Committee, in addition to just providing the facilities. Further, that a coordinator would have to be found.

**Resolved:** Student group may use the facilities as long as there is a reasonable charge, Mr. Tomlinson and Mr. Merriman-Preston will act as coordinators and liaison team, and Mr. Schwarz (Facilities Schedule) will be notified.

Mr. Tomlinson notes that a long-term structure/policy is needed for facilities use so that these requests can be better handled in the future.

3. Founders Hall Acoustical Dampening: Mr. Zeilman reports that John Luff has agreed to contact an acoustical engineer to perform a pro-bono acoustical analysis of Founders Hall. The House Committee has been approached by congregants stating their interest in helping to fund an acoustical dampening project for Founders Hall.

Mr. Zeilman asks how such a fund raising effort would fit into the overall church fund raising, and whether this effort can be brought before the congregation.

Mr. Tomlinson notes that all fund raising is directed by the Board, and that this project would be an appropriate candidate for focused fund raising. The estimated project cost will be required before a final decision is made.

Mr. Zeilman will pursue the project and bring back an estimate.

4. Nominating Committee: Mr. Tomlinson reports that Trustee, Gail Ward has agreed to chair the Nominating Committee that will report to the 2014 Annual Congregational Meeting. Clerk notes that the By-laws require one continuing Trustee as chairperson and two Church members who are not members of the Board. The Board thanks Mrs. Ward for this service to the congregation.

5. Share the Plate Initiative and Dues: Board notes that in previous discussions around the initiative, we have considered using some of the funds raised for each partner as payment for partner-assessed dues. PIIN is the current partner, Ms. Dell will check on the current PIIN rate.

Board will discuss at next meeting.

#### **IV Adjournment**

Mr. Tomlinson adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm and the chalice was extinguished.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be October 3, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald G. Zeilman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent initial "D".

Donald G. Zeilman, Clerk 2013–14