

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.

I Gathering

Mr. Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm, and shared works for the chalice lighting. A quorum was present at the call to order.

II Administration

1. Minutes of the January 16 meeting were distributed electronically for review. Correction noted.
2. Financial Report: Mr. McMahon, December report distributed electronically for review. Notes that there was an adjustment made between the amounts for offerings and for the End-of-Year campaign, that Christmas Eve's was a 50/50 special collection, that the amounts reported for the Giant Eagle program are a fair assessment of the current situation, that Mr. McMahon continues to evaluate the year-end report for investments, and that we are doing well generally.
3. Minister's Report: No report during sabbatical.
4. Report of the Clerk: Mr. Zeilman distributed copies of the information submitted for certification to the UUA, for review. Membership remains at 82.

Reports accepted by assent.

III Business

1. **Mid-Year Congregational Meeting Review.** Mrs. Ward observed that the meeting was on time, was upbeat, and that childcare was helpful. She was both pleased overall and proud of the success. Mr. Merriman-Preston observed that there was a good spirit and that the presentation of the Partner Church Initiative went well.
2. **Pittsburgh Cluster Organizing.** Mr. Tomlinson observes that UUA regionalization is moving forward, and that the attendant cluster organizing is also moving ahead under the leadership of the cluster ministers. He notes that there will be a meeting of cluster church leaders at Allegheny on March 9 to continue the conversation.
3. **Pennsylvania UUPlan Covenant.** Mr. Tomlinson reports that the congregation is invited into covenant with the Unitarian Universalist Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network, that we have been associated with informally. He notes that the commitment includes a \$5 per member assessment. Ms. Dell asks if the commitment requires that we assign a liaison, and Mr. Tomlinson believes not. Question raised regarding UUPlan's connection to Western Pennsylvania and whether local issues are being addressed. Mr. Tomlinson notes that strengthening the ties will aid in making them more connected. A vote on the proposal is postponed to the March meeting. Note that, at the current membership, the assessment will be \$410.

4. Investing in the UUA Common Endowment Fund. Mr. McMahon, reporting for the Finance Committee, reminds the Board that our current investment vehicles have a very low return, and that the Committee has investigated moving some portion of our investments into the Common Endowment Fund (see previous report to Board).

In principle, the Committee and Board are in agreement that this is an appropriate investment strategy. As previously reported, the UUA is in the process of separating the endowment fund, and making it a separate entity, important to ensure that the fund is sheltered from any UUA liability. That process has not come to completion pending finalization by the IRS.

Motion by Mr. McMahon to affirm the authority of the Finance Committee to move the investments into the UUA Common Endowment Fund when the Committee determines it is appropriate and reasonable. Second, Ms. Dell.

Motion Carries

Note: Board understands that further action/vote may be necessary to comply with legal and fiduciary requirements.

5. By-Law Amendments. Mr. Zeilman notes that he is working on amendments that affect the membership, purpose, and contract amount limit, and that he will share a proposal at the March meeting.

6. Covenant Renewal Policy. Mr. Zeilman reports that he is working with Jay Poliziani, Chair of the Committee on Ministry, on their draft proposal for conflict management policy. This initiative may require a statement of intent that would be voted upon by the congregation, in addition to policies initiated at the Board level.

7. Share the Plate Initiative. Mr. Tomlinson notes that the Executive Team has discussed making the initiative by the Charleston UU Church (around the water emergency), our next two-month partner. Information will be distributed.

8. Tour of 506 W. North Avenue. Mr. Tomlinson reports that he, Brian Byers and Mr. Zeilman investigated the facilities for sale at 506 W. North. He notes the on-going concern over the inadequacies of Unitarian House for our programs, especially a growing religious education program. The adjacency of the property at 506 gives it potential. Mr. Tomlinson will add a discussion of property investment to his proposed conversation with Jim Keys at the UUA (U House property owners).

6. Gilliford Fund. Mr. Tomlinson reports that he has been investigating the Gilliford Fund, a UUA trust set up by Allegheny founding member, Dr. Robert Henry Gilliford, to serve the North Side. Considering the mission of the trust, we would be ideal partners to partner with the UUA in carrying out the mission. Such a partnership could be of benefit to Allegheny as well.

IV Adjournment

Mr. Tomlinson adjourned the meeting and the chalice was extinguished.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be March 6, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Donald G. Zeilman, Clerk 2013-14