

Board of Trustees for Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church annual Board Retreat Minutes  
August 27<sup>th</sup>

In attendance: Rev Dave, Greg Blackman, John Luff, MaryJo Sontag Sonia Reed, Liz Dell,  
Kate Tomlinson, Jay Poliziani (quorum reached)

Guest: Denise  
Mahone

Absent  
:

Assent Agenda  
Approved

U house  
use

Guest speaker Denise talked about her interest in renting a room in the U house to  
use for her psychology practice on a very part time basis (one or one and a half days  
per week).

Liz will investigate any concerns for the church related to paying taxes on such income and  
report back to the group via an email by Tuesday August 30<sup>th</sup>. If there are no significant cost to  
the church for renting the space the group agreed that Denise can rent the space at \$150 per  
month beginning in September of 2016.

Greg will check with Renee Ruchotzke to see if other churches are dealing with these sorts  
of rental projects.

Denise agreed to consider helping as needed with church projects around conflict  
resolution—to be determined.

Ameritas MaryJo motioned and Sonia seconded and all agreed that the Board of Trustees  
send a letter to Ameritas authorizing AUUC's Treasurer have online access to all the  
investment accounts owned by AUUC for ease of preparing reports..

Remove members from Membership roles Mary Jo motioned and Kate seconded and all  
agreed to take the memberships committees recommendation to remove from membership  
roles Robert Edwards, Nancy Martin and Kelly Blaise.

Jay will work with Betty to get ICON list to match the membership  
book

Space use policy Jay will check with first church to see if they have a template we can follow for  
a space usage agreement. The space use information will be given to the House committee to  
review and return a recommendation to the BOT of what should be the churches policy and  
then begin implementation thereafter.

Greg will tell Andy that David Clippingger would need to pay \$250 for use of the church for the weekend –lower price than we would charge for a wedding.—the full Board agreed on the price.

RE Staff Based on the budgeted amount for RE for the coming fiscal year we can offer 15.40 an hour (fare share wage) for appx 20 hours a month. The focus of a search will be for a lead teacher that will focus on the older kids and pulling together curriculum for the volunteers. Kate and Liz will reach out to Lisa and Peggy and then work together to get parents and interested parties to a celebration to reinvigorate volunteer help for RE on Sundays.

Formalize connection between BOT and committees the group agreed that it would be beneficial for a BOT member to be on some specific committees to assure that information flows smoothly. Jay will join membership, Kate and Liz will join Religious Education, Kate is already on Stewardship, Sonia will increase involvement with Social Justice.

What is our future? The group is in full agreement that we cannot as a church continue to spend down our endowment at our current rate.

We need to increase revenue since significantly decreasing expenses is not feasible at this point.

To do this we need to increase membership and seek sources of stable income.

To retain current membership we need to address the need for conflict resolution. Possibly with the help of Denise Mahone once she is on site.

Everyone agreed that We need to as a Board make the members of Committees feel empowered to make decisions and not bog the BOT down with addressing minutia.

Kate will contact Andy about his efforts to update the committee lists and to see where that is in progress.

The next BOT meeting will have as its focus creation of a planning to excite the congregation about looking at our vision and planning next steps around it.

MaryJo will speak with Marnie about the work they did together about volunteer activities in the congregation. Combined with information Kate gets about committee membership we as a group will use that as a first step with the visioning process.

Committee leads and BOT will come together for a retreat to set the vision and put together a kickoff to reenergize the congregation around involvement with the church. Small groups will do the final work. This may involve some form of strategic planning.

MaryJo will check with Renee R. about visioning process info available.

Executive team will have a conference call once a month—two weeks before the BOT meeting to try to eliminate some of the things from the BOT meeting agenda so that the BOT meeting can have more focus on bigger issues –like vision.

BOT meetings will move to the fourth Tuesday of the Month at 7pm for the foreseeable future—based on BOT member availability.

Jay suggested we work to increase revenue by increasing the number of weddings held at AUUC. Jay will work with Andy to have an open house at the church for reception halls in the area that may need a church space for their weddings. Kate will investigate adding our church to mywedding.com Sonia will ask comparable churches to ours what the going rate is for a wedding space.

Status of the U house options currently possibly on the table include seeking funds from the UUA to create an interfaith center, possible use by UUA as a co housing program or working with UUA on some agreement to sell off the property.

The Board will gather information related to the possible options that may be needed – especially for the interfaith center—that information will be reviewed at the October meeting of the BOT.

Following the gathering of information period and conferring with Rev Dave on the project we will need to write up a proposal and then a meeting with the UUA will need to be set to discuss the proposal.

All agreed that this needs to remain confidential until a plan is set so that we have better ability to bargain with the UUA.

Kate, Greg and Jay will meet to look at how we communicate effectively with the congregation to get them all on board with the need for a change to our financial obligation to that property.

Jay and Liz will seek out information on interfaith centers and MaryJo will work with Rev Dave to see if the project fits in his schedule and will help coordinate the proposal.

MaryJo motioned to close the meeting and Liz seconded it –all agreed

Next meeting September 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at U House.