

## **Board of Trustees for Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church Board Minutes November 16, 2017**

**In attendance: Greg Blackman, Jay Poliziani, Rev Dave, Kate Tomlinson , John Luff, Lisa Schroth, Sonia Reed and Laura Conkle Guest: Shane Freeman (Quorum reached)**

- Absent:
- Check in
- Assent Agenda Approved with one correction to the minutes from October related to Greg not Lisa looking into similar church/school projects as suggested by the City of Bridges with the Quakers.

- Finances: John handed out an additional paper beyond what was emailed earlier related to the finances of the Beaver county UU group. At this point they are at break-even.

- Ministers Report: All agreed to accept the assent agenda

### **• Business**

- Shane Freeman requested the BOT's support as related to the placement of a banner from the exterior of the church (perhaps bell tower) which would possibly be selected from available options at the UUA related to the Black Lives Matter movement. Kate suggested that a smaller version, perhaps even on the church message board be put in place as well to have a lower more readable version with an action item to encourage involvement. Shane offered that he would purchase the banner and John suggested that the church should work to cover the cost of this since it is in line with our mission. Sonia motioned, Lisa seconded and all agreed that Shane should identify the banner and work with the house committee to identify the best way to secure the banner from the church.

- Shane asked that the group review and consider adopting the proposed 8<sup>th</sup> principle which has been adopted in some form or other by several UU congregations around the country. The group agreed that Shane can present the 8<sup>th</sup> principle at the mid- year meeting and ask that the congregation give it consideration and possibly consider voting about its adoption in some form at our next annual meeting.

- Greg presented a proposed Covenant between members of the Board of Trustees. Laura suggested that perhaps we consider using a version that already exists and is being used at a UUA level. Both covenants will be attached with the minutes. The group will give consideration to the proposed choices and select a Board Covenant at a later date.

- Greg summarized/synthesized the opinions of the members of the Executive Team of the BOT as related to Rev Dave' proposal about a covenant between Rev Tines and himself and Rev Tines and the congregation. The members of the executive team agreed that a covenant between Rev Dave and Rev Tines was between the two of them and therefore really did not need our approval. The group also agreed that any covenant between Rev Tines and the congregation required the consideration of the congregation and should be put to an official vote of the congregation at the next annual meeting or later. A discussion followed regarding giving Rev Tines an honorific title of Affiliated Minister. That discussion was followed by consideration as to whether Rev Tines should be asked to expand his understanding of Unitarian Universalism. Points were made on both sides with a consensus that his knowledge would grow over time. Rev Dave expressed that there are 19 Sunday's per year that he is not in the pulpit and he proposed that Rev Tines fill

10 of those Sundays leaving 9 open for other voices from the African American community and others. Laura motioned that we move to bless the covenant between Rev Dave and Rev Tines and the presentation of the covenant at church in December. Lisa seconded it and all except for John approved it. It was noted following the vote that this vote does not endorse bestowing an honorific title of Affiliated Minister upon Rev Tines.

- Greg expressed the summarized views of the Executive team related to the proposed Vespers led by Rev Tines and Kris Rust. The team asked that the Vespers be clearly welcoming to all and not appear as something specifically set for the LGBTQ community. Greg will be contact with Rev Tines and Kris Rust about the logistics of use of the space and to seek clarification on how the finances around the service can best be managed. This will be updated in December.
- City of Bridges. Greg presented a draft letter to be sent to the congregation introducing the City of Bridges school proposal and asking them to participate in listening sessions about it. The goal would be to have listening sessions in December and early January and a discussion at the mid-year meeting followed by a vote of the board based on the feedback from those sessions. The UUA and the Cluster have voiced support for this endeavor however it is unclear what that means related to actual involvement on their part. It was agreed that Randy from the City of Bridges should be invited to the listening sessions.
- Kate updated the group on a successful campaign to get new financial pledges to the church. The campaign which had a financial match from the board brought in 5 first time pledges. The board is encouraged to follow up on their proposed pledges to this effort.
- The next meeting is December 21<sup>st</sup> and the mid-year meeting is January 28th
- Kate motioned to adjourn and Sonia seconded and all agreed.