

## **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: Kate Tomlinson, President; Sarah-Wade Smith, Vice President; Matt Merriman-Preston, Treasurer; Badger Kopnitsky; and Patrick Burke.

Excused: Donald Zeilman, Clerk

Ex officio: Rev. David McFarland, not present

### **I Gathering**

Kate Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 7:00PM and shared words for the chalice lighting. A quorum was present at the call to order (five of six Trustees). Kate previously distributed the agenda electronically; calls for additions or changes. None are offered.

### **II Administration**

1. Minutes of the October 28, 2019 were distributed electronically. Kate calls for additions or changes to the Minutes. None are offered.

2. Financial Report: Matt Merriman-Preston. The financial report was distributed electronically. Matt stated that he believed the financial statements were reconciled, but intended to update the financial report as required.

3. Minister's Report: Rev. Dave submitted his report electronically prior to the meeting.

4. Report of the Clerk: Not present.

5. Denominational Affairs: Following up on the second "Small Numbers, Infinite Possibilities" session, Rev. Dave suggested that we need to choose what we will let go of, given our limited financial resources. Kate notes that we need to find our "sweet spot," evaluating which thing the congregation will focus on. The five-part scale includes:

1. Alignment with mission (primary)
2. Its impact
3. Our will to do it
4. Competency to do it
5. Capacity to do it.

**Reports accepted by assent.**

### **III Business**

1. **Facilities Rental:** The congregation is struggling to find people to handle building rentals. Do we have a policy on who can use our buildings? Is there a fee schedule?

Kate offered to collect the components, but a volunteer is needed to be coordinator. John Engberg is willing to work on this but not to be the main coordinator. Zeilman may be able to help. Scott Powers has been approached to do it. Rev. Dave, Mark and Kate can be part of the team but cannot lead. Matt expressed concern about how rental checks are picked up and submitted.

Noted that Kelly Smith just finished her masters in Marketing and lives in the neighborhood. Church is currently charging \$300 for a wedding rental.

Can there be other revenue sources for Unitarian House and church building? MWSS currently rents space at Unitarian House.

**2. Mid-Year Meeting:**

- » Jan 25th is set for Midyear Meeting date.
- » Consider what we have to do / need in order to stay open; to stay Allegheny? Discuss after right sizing and Stewardship.
- » Do we need a membership committee? Badger agreed to talk to the present committee members. Do we want the membership committee to focus on making visitors members, or members congregants?
- » Fund raising proposals: 1) a concert series, 2) ask people for money, 3) a church sale in June.
- » The Strategic Plan.
- » Lyceum Proposal: We need a lead for the project. Names are suggested. Cluster will want someone from Allegheny to start the coordination. Liz Dell may be willing to do some coordinating.
- » Counterpoint to Discussing Lyceum: Congregation has not yet been informed about the Lyceum Proposal. We should gauge their interest. It would be good to have something to point to on the 25th.
- » Board will take responsibility for providing food and childcare for the meeting. Inga Barton-Smith might be willing to take on the task. Should this be a paid ?
- » Kate will put together the draft information / agenda for the meeting, and Board can finalize it at the January meeting.
- » Rev. Dave: Question: what makes you feel most welcome at church?

**3. Healthy Conflict:** Kate proposes having a workshop around healthy conflict. It is suggested that Yvette Shipman may be available to lead a training.

**IV Adjournment**

Matt moves to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carries.**

Kate Tomlinson adjourns the meeting and the chalice is extinguished.

Next meeting: December 16, 7:00pm at Unitarian House.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah-Wade Smith, Recording Secretary