



Second Unitarian Church of Chicago
Board of Trustees
March 8, 2017
Meeting Minutes
Approved April 12, 2017

Attendees

Trustee	Attending (Y/N)	Trustee	Attending(Y/N)
Susan Zeigler, Past Chair	Y	Dana Hill, Treasurer	Y
Tom Denio, Chair	Y	Mary-Helen Steindler, Council Chair	Y
Dan Lewis, Chair Elect	Y	Susan Richter	Y
Erin Rusmi, Secretary	Y		
Staff	Attending (Y/N)	Staff	Attending
Rev. Adam Robersmith	Y	Andrew Zallar, Congregational Administrator:	Y

Guests Present: Karen Fort

Meeting Kick-off

- Meeting began at 7:05pm.
- Board recited the covenant together and checked in.
- Dan moved to approve last month's minutes. Dana seconded. All in favor.
- Review agenda

Important Dates

- COM's listening dates March 12, 19 and 26
- Pledging Deadline -April 23
- CPS Spring Break April 10-14
- Easter Sunday – April 16
- Membership working on 2U dinners for April 29
- Radical Hospitality conversation after church on March 19
- Susan Z.'s birthday is March 30!

Canvass Team Update

- The canvas is underway

Staff Reports Review and Discussion

- Minister's Report
 - Strategic Planning Team meeting March 30 to do get to know you and talk about Holy Conversations. Consultant not available until August. Team will start on their own.
 - Adam recommends the team not focus not on whether to go to two services but what does 2U look like in three to five years? What sort of staffing, programs, infrastructure do we need? Two services conversation is too timely and needs to be made sooner and Adam suggests whether to go to two services in September be made by the board in April or May. Tom suggests the board choose the question at the April meeting and set up a conference call before.
 - The board discussed changing leadership and structure.
 - Cabinets for behind the chancel have been chosen, Fred Hawley portrait at the framers' being reframed
 - Chicago Folklore Ensemble date finalized
- Congregational Administrator's Report
 - Space sharing remains strong and growing



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- 20% of space sharing income for this month has been allocated to the building fund
- Chili cookoff was a success
- Pledging strong for February
- Heard from city regarding stair damage, they will pay for some of damage
- Report on Social Media from 2 area UU churches – Andrew contacted a few area UU churches and asked about how they do their websites and manage social media presence – Evanston did full redesign and hired a staff person to work on it, First redesigned website and has a webmaster from the congregation, Unity Temple didn't respond. Andrew recommends a model like Evanston's in the future.

Formation of Climate Team – Karen Fort

- Karen proposed that the 2U Climate Justice Team restart in the form of the Citizen's Climate Lobby which currently meets in Karen's home
- Once a month on second Saturdays, 11am-2pm
- Hoping 2U people who came to see Karen's climate play will be interested
- 40 people attended last meeting at Karen's home, none were from 2U except her
- Karen plans to publicize thru usual channels, announcements, the Anvil, orders of service
- Presentation and viewing party for Earth Day
- Karen would like to start monthly meetings at 2U in May because there is a conflict in April
- The board was unanimously in favor of Karen's proposal.

Congregational Health / Activities

- **Council Report:** Mary-Helen
 - New members – 15 new people signed up, idea to publically acknowledge people who have attended people for more than 30 years – maybe in passages, once a month in pastoral prayer
 - Sunday Services Committee lay services set thru May, need more people on the committee
 - Lifespan Faith Development – upcoming adult education classes
 - COVES (pagan group)– doing March 19 service
 - COMS – doing listening campaign
 - Mary-Helen would like to get people to do more volunteering. Discussed the importance of personal asks. Asked everyone on the board to go up to two people and ask what they are interested in and what skills they have, then take the information back to Andrew, committee members. Susan Z. mentioned the time and talent survey and Tom suggested approaching this through affinity groups such as the senior lunch.
- **Social Justice:** One on One Conversations – Erin
 - First round of one on ones is almost done, moving on to new group including new members and leaders
 - Goal is to complete one on ones with everyone who wants one by mid-summer, about 50% of congregation is another goal
 - Structure not fully developed or decided but involves supporting small groups to work on what they are interested in as is already happening with Sanctuary group and Climate Justice group
- **Marketing and Fundraising Update** – Susan
 - Next meeting March 23 at 6pm
 - Work around getting the word out and upcoming events
- **Plate Sharing** – Susan Richter



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- Quarterly meeting last Sunday, applications from Renner on Council on Islamic Relations (CAIR), Mary-Sue Barrett from Lakeview Pantry, Amber Meriwether from Legal Assistance Foundation (LAF), Kimberly Bares for Transylvania partner church, and Scott Aaseng for UUANI
- Will meet for policy meeting on May 7
- Other – Dan – celebrated 60th birthday last week

Finance Review and Discussion

- Treasurer's Report – Dana
 - Pledges strong and over goal
 - Special Gifts goal has been met
 - New membership huge in February
 - Finance Committee met and discussed revised draft canvas budget goal
 - Both 15% and 20% pledge increase will be included on pledge card
 - Tom discussed immediate cost increase if we move to two services and eventual revenue increase
 - Letter for people who are behind or unfulfilled, personal phone call for people who have paid 0% of pledge – Adam, Tom, and Dana will talk

Building & Grounds Update

- Insurance Claim in Progress
 - Said they need more time to investigate – Andrew will follow up
- Besco HVAC bid for Sanctuary, Palmer Room received; awaiting HeatMaster bid

General Assembly – New Orleans, June 21 - 25 (Wed – Sunday)

- Registration fee is \$360 and this rises to \$415 on May 1
- Early registration is March 1 – April 30
- Fee waived if one is accepted as a volunteer worker for 18 hours, March 31 deadline to apply

New Business

- No new business

Old Business – Feedback on Polling Place Status

- Negative feedback from a few congregants about decision to stop being a polling place
- Board discussed the options to keep the decision, reconsider as a board, or put it to a congregational vote, or a multi-step process starting with the people who have contacted board members and tell them where we're at, where our decision last time came from, and ask them to help make polling place happen
- Adam suggested if we decide to remain as a polling place ask the members who felt strongly to volunteer during the election and watch the building as well as helping follow up if there is damage
- Mary-Helen moves that we reconsider our initial decision to cease being a polling place and recruit volunteers to assist in continuing to be a polling place. Dana seconds. Motion carried.

Adjourn

- Susan Z. moved to adjourn. Dana seconded. All in favor. Adjourned at 9:35pm.