



Second Unitarian Church of Chicago Board of Trustees

July 15, 2016

Minutes

Approved August 10, 2016

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	N	Susan Richter	Y
Erin Rusmi, Secretary	Y		
Staff	Attending (Y/N)	Staff	Attending (Y/N)
Rev. Adam Robersmith	N	Andrew Zallar, Congregational Administrator:	Y

Meeting Kick-off

- The meeting began at 7:14pm. The board recited the 2U covenant together and checked in.
- Tom moved to approve minutes from June meeting. Susan Z. seconded. The motion carried with one abstention.

New Board Member Notes

- The board retreat will take place on September 10 or 17. Tom will check back with Adam and nail down the date ASAP. Mary-Helen volunteered to host.
- During his time on the board, Jim Redlich started and maintained a board Google Docs (aka, "The Cloud") for storing policies, financials, and more. Access is limited, to be opened up a little more soon. Tom will ask Jim to send all current board members a Cloud "how to" email.
- All present shared their committee connections, including those they have served on currently and previously and those they are most knowledgeable about.
 - a. Tom – Finance, Building, Infrastructure, and Grounds (BIG), Fundraising/Marketing (F/M)
 - b. Susan Z. – Pastoral Care, BIG, F/M
 - c. Mary-Helen – Canvas (was chair), BIG
 - d. Dana – Canvas (was also chair), BIG, Green Caterpillar/Religious Education
 - e. Susan R. – Sunday Services, F/M, Spirit Play, Choir
 - f. Erin – Social Justice Council, Young Adult Group, Choir, Hospitality, Spirit Play
 - g. Andrew – BIG, Finance, F/M, Hospitality
- Andrew updated the board on two "persons of interest"
 - a. Andrew Angel: white supremacist who has been calling repeatedly, leaving messages about wanting to get involved at 2U, has done the same at other churches, Adam returned his calls with a voicemail saying that the content as presented on his website do not align with the mission and values of 2U and he is not invited to participate
 - b. Laura Clark: person who has used the church to store personal belongings, spend the night, and carelessly burn candles creating a fire hazard; last month board voted to ban her for 90 days while the Safe Congregations Committee looks into the situation further.
- Important Dates
 - a. Fall Fest – October 22 – need a lead, we have a pool of volunteers from last year to tap
 - b. Open House for neighborhood – will include tours, Adam will talk about ministries of the church, date TBD after landscaping is done – sometimes in September
- Hand Raising
 - a. When many people want to talk at once during a board discussion, the chair will keep track of raised hands and call on people
 - b. No interrupting – Tom will call on you when it's your turn.



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Building Use

- Beverly UU Church was recently hit with a property tax bill because of their rentals to a daycare and residential living space. Andrew is in contact with law firms to get a sense of what advice they can provide to 2U to avoid a similar situation and how much their services will cost.
- Andrew reviewed current space sharers, including their statuses as for profit, 501c3, or mission-based with no legal status and whether we charge them for their use of 2U's space.
- Narcotics Anonymous Request for Sundays at 1 pm
 - The board discussed whether to start with a 3-6 month probation or trial period, either as a standard practice for new renters or on a case-by-case basis (for lower-paying renters) and ultimately decided to go ahead with the Narcotics Anonymous rental without this period.
- Walmart had approached Andrew about space sharing for a flu shot clinic. The rental would be free of charge to Walmart and we are unsure whether they charge for their flu shots.
 - The board brought up the following concerns: church member feelings about Walmart's labor practices and discrimination and not wanting Walmart associated with 2U. The potential benefit would be exposure to the church for people coming in for flu shots.
 - The board decided not to offer space to Walmart.

Hiring of Music Director and Director of Religious Education

- Job postings are out. We have received applicants. Interviews will start late July for a August 15 start date.

COMS Needs 2 New Members

- The board reviewed and approved suggested nominations for two vacant COMS positions.

Finance Review and Discussion

- No Treasurer's Report this month.
- Anonymous Donation of \$4,500 – decision of how to allocate the money, taking into account donor recommendations, tabled for next meeting.
- Discussion regarding surplus – decision of how to allocate this money also tabled for next meeting.

Staff Reports Review and Discussion

- Congregational Administrator's Report
 - During the 2016 fiscal year (FY2016, July 2015 to June 2016) our space sharing income was over \$30,000 (over double from last year) and we're already going strong for FY2017
 - Tom moves that we add to Byline Bank the following signers: Mary-Helen Steindler (Council Chair), Dan Lewis (Incoming Chair), and Dana Hill (Treasurer). The following signers are remaining: Susan Zeigler (Past Chair) Tom Denio (Chair), and Andrew Zallar (Congregational Administrator). The following board members whose terms have expired will be removed: Karen Fort and Jim Redlich. Mary-Helen seconds the motion and it carries unanimously.
 - Tom moves that we add to Devon Bank the following signers: Susan Richter (At Large), Dan Lewis (Incoming Chair), and Dana Hill (Treasurer). The following signers are remaining: Susan Zeigler (Past Chair) Tom Denio (Chair), and Andrew Zallar (Congregational Administrator). The following board members whose terms have expired will be removed: Karen Fort, Molly Rossow, Darrin Weatherspoon, and Jim Redlich. Susan seconds the motion and it carries unanimously.



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- Minister's Report – Adam is on staff at the Midwest Leadership School in Beloit and did not was not present to present a report.
- June Board Chat Feedback
 - Susan Z. facilitated the most recent board chat. The proposal to join the Illinois Gun Violence Prevention Coalition was discussed and no objections were voiced by the congregants present. Two objections were sent via email, including one objection with the decision-making process of whether to join and one preference to align with a group that will advocate to ban assault weapons not make them harder to access.

Update on Board Retreat Action Items

- Marketing/Fundraising Committee (Tom and Susan)
 - Susan reviewing survey draft with Myra
 - Next Meeting Sunday August 14

Congregational Health

- Council Report
 - The Social Justice Council is seeking a coordinator (or coordinators) for The Night Ministry. We can have an interim coordinator or two while we search for someone more long-term, or withdraw from The Night Ministry until an interested person comes forward.
- Social Justice - Rev Aaseng is consulting pro bono to develop 2U's social justice identity.
- Cincinnati Church Survey
 - The board discussed an email from a UU Church in Cincinnati regarding 2U's participation in a survey on the future of UUism and how we are preparing for it. The board is in favor of participating and curious about the questions that will be asked and the direction of the survey. We will reach out so they can send us their questions to think through in advance, as well as their deadlines and timelines.
- Committee/Other Church Group BoT Liaison updates
 - Building, Infrastructure, and Grounds (BIG) - next meeting July 17

Old business

- Susan Z. moved that 2U join the Illinois Gun Violence Prevention Coalition of the Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence. Susan R. seconded. After discussion, Susan withdrew her motion and the board decided to invite Jill Althage to come and tell us more or send a report to be discussed at the next board meeting. The discussion was as follows:
 - Erin expressed concern about police violence and a state intervention as a solution to gun violence. She is interested to know what the consequences would be for violating the new gun laws IGVPC is advocating for. Incarceration? Banned from selling guns? Pay a fine? Something else? Susan Z. added that the Chicago Police are part of IGVPC.
 - Erin, Mary-Helen, and Dana all expressed concern that they were not well-informed enough to decide which anti-gun-violence organization would be best for 2U to support.
 - Tom summarized and reflected statements he heard from various board members to say that we want more information about how joining IGVPC fits into 2U's mission overall.

New business

- The board discussed a suggestion from a congregant that 2U hang a US flag in addition to our new Black Lives Matter banner. The board agreed not to move forward with the US flag. The discussion included the following points:
 - Erin stated that the US flag is a symbol of support for a country that was built on genocide and slavery and continues to run on oppression and exploitation, so she does



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not want this flag at 2U. She stated that “Black Lives Matter” is a statement that is true on its own and we don’t need something to “balance out” our banner.

- Several board members expressed agreement that “Black Lives Matter” should stand on its own, and added that timing is important.
- Several board members, including Dana and Mary-Helen disagreed with the US flag idea because separation of church and state is important and this would encourage dilution of that principle.
- Mary-Helen suggested that the board choose the new canvas chair within the next few months.

Adjourn

- Tom moved to adjourn the meeting. Dana seconded. All were in favor and we adjourned at 10:19pm.