



**Second Unitarian Church of Chicago**  
**Board of Trustees**  
June 14, 2017  
Meeting Minutes  
Approved July 11, 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	N
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			

**Meeting Kick-off**

- Meeting began at 7:14pm
- Dan moved to approve the May board meeting minutes. Susan R. seconded. Minutes were approved.

**Important Dates (5 minutes)**

- June 15, Board Exit Interview with Ian Evison, MidAmerica Region 7:30 pm
- General Assembly June 21-25
- Rev Adam's Last Sunday at 2U = July 30
- Retreat for Beloved Conversations Sept 22-23
- Fall Fest Saturday October 21

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

- Dan moved that we make Elizabeth Harding a delegate for 2U at General Assembly. Susan Z. seconded. All in favor.

**New Business**

- Northern Area Youth Con Nov 17-19 hosted by Unity Temple at 2U - the youth will clean everything and be out before the service, with a small portion attending church. Board is in agreement that this is a good idea. Tom will sign on. Adam commented that the con is a good idea for encouraging 2U youth to participate.
- Kim Warman request to include Anvil link for individual donations to Black Lives of UU (national) re support to attend GA - board in favor of a one time request, will follow up on whether she wants to do it on an ongoing basis
- COMs will be replaced with a new transition team of 5-7 members to support the interim minister around history and why the congregation does things the way that it does, what's going well, what needs change, etc. The group will be a mix of long term members and some newer.
- Susan Z. will donate copies of the interim minister transition book for the new board to read.

**Old Business**

- Beloved Conversations
  - Retreat Sept 22-23 then additional sessions where each church meets on their own every two weeks
  - Groups of 12 needed to sign up
  - Evanston, Unity Temple, Hinsdale, DuPage, Countryside participating
  - The more congregations involved the less expensive the program will be
  - Recommend that participants miss no more than one session
  - Funding options from surplus, worship and LFD budget



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- Board agreed to sign up for Beloved Conversations curriculum and commit \$1,400
- **Racial Audit**
  - Check in with Jennie (interim minister) about recommendations and what she's willing to work with
  - Crossroads is an option
  - Adam has names of people who work from the developmental model of intercultural sensitivity
  - Adam emphasized the importance of providing a path forward

#### **Staff Reports Review and Discussion**

- Minister's Report - Adam didn't write one this month
- DFD's Report - Alicia submitted a written report
- Congregational Administrator's Report
  - Three weddings this summer - maybe more next summer due to AC
  - More payments since report was written for space sharing
  - A handyperson was in today for sanctuary repairs
  - Election day damage and cabinet installation this week, exterior trim painters before homecoming Sunday (fall)

#### **Congregational Health & Activities**

- Council Report - Mary-Helen submitted a written report
- Social Justice One on Ones Update - Kim just sent a report to the Board, we will discuss next month
- COM's report - report on Adam for board to read before the board's conference call tomorrow
- Marketing and Fundraising Update – Susan Z reports that luncheon went well, committee is skipping June, next meeting will be July 16, Susan would like to stay involved but not lead
- Plate Sharing - Susan R. reported that recipients are scheduled through December, start announcements in mid-August asking for applications for the October 15 deadline; a staff person can not apply for their organization - it must be a volunteer or recipient of the organization's services
- Housing for interim minister is underway
- 2U Cubs Outing Sunday August 6, 43 tickets all sold

#### **Finance Review and Discussion**

- Treasurer's Report – Dana reports that new members are joining, new member picnic was successful, pledge fulfillment is good.
- Dana moved to change Byline Bank signers as follows starting July 1. Susan Zeigler will be replaced by Tom Clowes. The following signers will remain: Dana Hill, Tom Denio, Mary-Helen Steindler, Dan Lewis, and Andrew Zallar. Erin seconded. All in favor.

#### **Strategic Planning Team Update**

- Their charge will stay the same (What does the congregation want to look like in 3-5 years?) It will be helpful in finding a new minister.

#### **Building & Grounds Update**

- New Chair Needed to replace Monica Drane, who is resigning as of June 30 but committed to organizing the watering schedule
- Susan R. will ask Jim Redlich to be the new chair.
- Reserve for repairs, new money needed for new projects.
- New mural to be painted by kids in downstairs hallway
- Carpet cleaning, re-open old green caterpillar room after repair



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- Main entrance door refinished by fall
- HVAC installed, Tube Elevation Aug 21-24
- Tuckpointing, interior painting re water damage pending
- Painting of south side exterior trim

**Recognition of Departing Board Members: Susan Zeigler (Past Chair) & Erin Rusmi (Secretary)**

**Executive Session**

**Adjourn**

- Erin moved to adjourn at 8:55pm. Susan Z. seconded. All in favor.

**2U Covenant:**

We covenant to build a community that challenges us to grow and empowers us to honor the truth within ourselves. We will be generous with our gifts and honest in our communication, holding faithful to a love that embraces both diversity and conflict. Called by our living tradition, we will nurture spirituality within a vision of the eternal, living out our inner convictions through struggles for justice and acts of compassion.

*From the website of Meadville Lombard Theological School:*

**Beloved Conversations**  
**Meditations on Race and Ethnicity**

**Program Developed by Dr. Mark A. Hicks**

*Beloved Conversations* is an experiential curriculum that provides a space to re-form/fuse the brokenness of racism into new patterns of thought and behavior ushering in social and spiritual healing. New ways of being are learned through the actions of conversation and probing dialogue.

The program consists of a 1.5 day retreat that launches the curriculum, followed by 8 weeks of guided dialogue/experiential exercises. Each session in the 8 week curriculum is two hours, and highly structured. The retreat is facilitated by a trained Fahs Collaborative staffperson, the following eight sessions are facilitated by members of the congregation running the program. The work is done in small groups of 10-12 participants. If the retreat is larger than 25 participants, a second retreat facilitator is added (see costs below).

Each session poses questions that connect with both the sources of inspiration as well as the challenges of race/ethnicity that slow our human journey toward wholeness. As such, the curriculum differs from many approaches to anti-racism/multicultural work in that it frames the discussion not only in terms of demographic urgency or cultural critiques (both of which are useful to understand!), but how developing skills and the habits of an anti-racist mind helps everyone – those in dominant groups as well as those who are targets of oppression - heal from the wounds of racism.

**Topics**

- The Footprint of Racial & Ethnic History in Your Community
- Exploring the Dynamic of Racism and Privilege
- Racism Today: Micro-Aggressions
- Interrupting Racism
- Community Audit: The Experience of Race & Ethnicity in your Community
- The Legacy of Racism



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- Toward a New Identity: How Can We Be-in-the-World?
- Collecting our Wisdom: A Celebration of Learning and Commitment

Facilitation

After the Opening Retreat, *Beloved Conversations* should be facilitated by a two-person team. When possible, we strongly suggest that the team consist of racial/ethnic and gender diversity. Topics associated with racial/ethnic diversity often create emotional and cognitive dissonance among learners. As a learning experience of spiritual deepening, at least one of the facilitators should be adept providing spiritual leadership (i.e., spiritual counseling, deep listening, nurturing ambiguity, etc.) The curriculum includes readings and specific tips that support facilitating cross-cultural conversation.

The Beloved Conversations Network is a collection of all congregations that have participated in the weekend Retreat and the eight subsequent seminars. The goal of the Network is to gel congregations into a national "learning community" so each congregation - facilitators, lay people, congregational staff - are constantly engaging in discussions about how race/ethnicity shapes their lives. The Network signals that a life-long, ongoing, process of co-teaching and co-learning is necessary in order to combat incessant racism/social oppression. In such a learning community, participants share their successes and shortcomings, facilitators share their strategies and formats for success, and Retreat Leaders deepen their skills and commitment to the work of building multi-racial, multicultural and theologically diverse spiritual communities.

Witness

Beloved Conversations was piloted in two UU congregations in 2010 – First Unitarian, Portland, Oregon and our congregation in Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

Here's what they experienced:

*"One of the most beautiful aspects of Beloved Conversations was seeing its transformative potential come to bear.... I was moved to my core witnessing Unitarian Universalism come alive to members of my congregation."* Rev. Manish Mizra-Marzetti, Senior Minister, UU Congregation at Cherry Hill

*"Many [participants] said that this was the first time, or the first time in a long time, when they had been part of a conversation about race that left them hopeful. ... Out of these conversations, we are beginning to shape a way forward to address and 'interrupt' racism in all its forms: institutional, cultural, and individual."* Rev. Kate Lore, Minister for Social Justice, First Unitarian Church, Portland, OR

*"I watched as people struggled with concepts of privilege, institutional racism and stereotyping in ways they hadn't until that point. More importantly, I witnessed most staying fully engaged despite that struggle. Jennifer Kelleher, Intern Minister, UU Congregation at Cherry Hill*