



**Second Unitarian Church of Chicago**  
**Board of Trustees**  
 April 12, 2017  
 Meeting Minutes  
 Approved May 17, 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	Attending (Y/N)	Guests	Attending
Steve Hier	Y	Monica Drane	Y

**Meeting Kick-off**

- Meeting began at 7:15pm
- Shared recitation of the covenant
- Check-in led by Tom
- Dan moved to approve the minutes from last month. Susan Z. seconded. All in favor, minutes were approved.
- Review agenda

**Important Dates**

- Pledging Deadline - April 23
- Finance Committee Budget Meeting April 30
- CPS Spring Break April 10-14
- Annual Meeting, May 21
- Seder – April 15
- Easter Sunday – April 16

**Painting Quotes**

- Buildings, Infrastructure, and Grounds recommends doing the south face of church estimate is \$8,500; estimate for whole church is \$22,000
- Mary-Helen moved we use \$4,000 from Building Fund and the remainder of the cost from the Operating Fund and leftovers from other repairs to repaint the trim on the south side of the building. Dana seconded. Motion carried.

**Proposals to Cool Sanctuary and Palmer Room – Steve Hier**

- Steve shared HVAC recommendations
- We are getting a final quote from Heatmasters to choose between them and BESCO
- Choices are running the duct in the center of the sanctuary (\$8,000, looks ok) or running ducts in the triangle rafters on sides of sanctuary (\$14,000, would look ugly)
- Susan Z. recommends that if either of the companies we are considering are women or people of color owned, if price is comparable they get priority
- Should we hold a town hall? Board decided no.

**Building & Grounds Update**

- Insurance claim received to cover western door repair and refinishing, tuckpointing, repair of water damage



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#### Staff Reports Review and Discussion

- Minister's Report
  - Strategic Planning Team met once, they are awesome, meeting was great, they are off to a good start using Holy Conversations book, seems like consultant won't be needed, Adam tasked them with their charge, they are working on it
  - Adam shared sermon schedule for the month, taking vacation for two Sundays
  - Waiting for rescheduling for cabinets, Fred Hawley portrait being reframed
  - Multicongregation UU Revival Service being planned for Labor Day
  - World Music Festival kicked off
  - We got a letter from South Bend Indiana Church and sent appreciation for what we do and who we are as a community (they looked at our website, Adam thinks they might choose a congregation to do this with once a month)
- DFD's Report
  - Alicia submitted a written report
- Congregational Administrator's Report
  - Space sharing continues to be strong, projects ending year at over \$32,000
  - Written report lists upcoming rentals
  - \$170,814 for canvas so far, projected numbers \$233,000 if people who haven't pledged yet pledge the same as last year, this is short of our goal
  - Canvas deadline is the Sunday after Easter
  - Next Finance meeting is April 30 with a secondary meeting May 7

#### Congregational Health / Activities

- Council
  - Membership – new member orientation in process for 3 Sundays, getting committee chairs to come to the one on the 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - Next 2U dinner on the 29<sup>th</sup>
  - Sunday Services set until June
  - Pride Sunday Lemonade Stand, worship service to integrate with the parade and lemonade stand, designed with stopping points for people to go out and work and come back
  - Sue Dunmore on Council on Churches Committee, will put article in Anvil to encourage people to attend
  - More teachers needed for religious education programs, plans to have classes through the summer
  - Summer includes 7 intergenerational services and some outdoor classes for children
  - The Hammer (social justice newsletter) has been revived
  - Hospitality – Epiphany Paris is going to co-chair with Mark, Myra and Jim proposed ideas to get people to volunteer
  - Committee on Ministries finished evaluation of minister, working on writing report, right now spending time on personal issue with congregant
  - Rudra has received Final Fellowship (like tenure for ministers)
- Marketing and Fundraising Update – Susan Z
  - Last meeting largely focused on moving permanent signage forward, Maria Gregorio agreed to spearhead that starting in June
  - Went over calendar for rest of year
  - Next meeting on Sunday April 23



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#### **UUA Hiring Controversy and White Supremacy Update – Rev Adam**

- Head of Congregational Life Hiring and Chief Operating Officer also resigned after UUA President Peter Morales resigned, newly hired Congregational Lead resigned and went back to congregation, position is open as well as two positions at the UUA
- Sarah Lammert (head of another department) stepping in as COO, Jessica York moved to head Sarah Lammert's department
- Bill Sinkford (former president) appointed as interim president for outward tasks, Leon Spencer (very involved with anti-oppression efforts) appointed to talk with constituents (including DRUMM and BLUU) Sofia Betancourt appointed interim co-president for institutional change; they will serve in these roles until new president is elected at general assembly (all 3 are African American)
- Controversy and difficulty about resignations – debate over whether resigning was the right decision
- What should 2U be considering?
  - Ongoing engagement with UUA – pay attention, go to General Assembly as delegates
  - Institutionally – take cue from questions asked at UUA – where do we do well/badly/not see where something needs to be done/what do we need to do be the congregation we want to be
  - Beloved Conversations in the fall, bringing others in
  - Staff hiring is not an issue for us
  - What does current board tell us about the makeup or demographics of our congregation?
  - What does it mean to be an antiracist congregation? What have people in congregation done and learned? How much work has congregation done? How diverse is congregation? Demographics of Lakeview shifting. How do we make congregation more diverse without tokenizing?
  - We will be participating in May 7 Anti-Racism Teach In as part of Rudra's sermon and in classrooms
  - Social Justice folks planning service for summer
  - Trainings to consider – Crossroads, Who Are Our Neighbors? – we can look at funding participation in trainings
  - Conversation about hiring decision and white supremacy attended by six congregational leaders and two additional members, four emails from people who couldn't be there but wanted to share thoughts

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

- Treasurer's Report – Dana
  - March pledges weak, ahead in total, attendance down for the month (some fluctuations in attendance are influenced by the moving around of Easter), we continue to put money into the building fund, five new visitor cards in March, 90 this year
- Canvass Update – Dana/Andrew
  - \$170,000 with 85 units
- Current Pledge Payment Results – Dana/Andrew
  - 11 members with pledges over \$100 that are at zero fulfillment for the year, follow up email and phone call this week

#### **Planning for Annual Meeting on May 21**

- Adam recommends treasurer's report and budget proposal be separated (either budget given by a board member other than treasurer, or put a different agenda item in between treasurer's report and budget proposal)



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- Budget Town Hall May 14, board meeting moved from May 10 to 17 so it will be after the Budget Town Hall

**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

**MidAmerica Regional Assembly, Oak Brook, IL Friday, April 29 – Sunday, April 30**

- Early Bird registration deadline is April 4, \$165 at the door = \$190

**Adjourn**

- At 9:10pm, Dana motioned to adjourn and Dan seconded. Motion carried.