

FIRST UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF WAUSAU

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 20, 2018

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm

In Attendance: Beier, Briquelet Miller (presiding), Busig, Kurth, Maier, Monarski, Wright, Mason (ex officio) Trombley (staff)

Excused: Hemp, Peterson, Jefferson (Treasurer) Spialek (staff)

Visitors: None

Chalice lighting, reading, reflections

Agenda Consent and Repair: Beier asked that under Old Business we add discussion on the need to address the conflict regarding governance authority between Bylaws, Board Policies and Ministerial contract. Maier requested Reserve fund Policy revision under New Business.

Approval of the January 16, 2018 minutes: Moved and seconded to approve. Unanimous, with Wright abstaining.

Treasurer's Report: Report submitted in writing. With Jefferson excused, there was some discussion on the financial narrative.

Minister's Report: Report submitted in writing. Mason discussed his meeting and conversation with the Endowment Committee trying to clarify the relationship between the Endowment with the Board of Trustees. There is some ambiguity as to authority and direction between the two entities and Mason stated the need for improved dialogue. To that end he proposes an April 2018 meeting with members of both. It was also stated that the Endowment Committee will send a representative quarterly to a Trustee meeting. Part of the discussion should consider a Long-range planning committee to address the needs of the physical plant and the value of mortgage reduction.

Mason also informed the Board of the increased time commitment he is finding on the pastoral counseling side of his ministry and asked for our support as he continues to try to meet the needs of all.

Staff Reports:

Congregational Administrator Report submitted in writing

Religious Education: Report submitted in writing. Trombley talked about the beginning work on Open Arms sessions and the need for input from the congregation as to their support. She also announced that there is an adult leadership conference in July scheduled by the UUA and anyone interested in attending should contact her. She will put announcements in the upcoming CW's to encourage others in the congregation to attend

Committee Reports:

There were no standing committee reports

Old Business:

Motion made, seconded to return to Endowment the \$5,000.00 it had contributed to the 2017 budget. A successful Stewardship campaign in 2017 meant that the money was not needed. A similar \$7,500.00 in 2016 was also returned. **Passed unanimously.**

Motion made and seconded to authorize the Property committee to finalize bids and proceed on the renovation of Yawkey Hall. Discussion yielded a called question and the **motion was defeated.** A second **motion was made and seconded** authorizing the Property committee to proceed to raise sufficient funds for the renovation of Yawkey Hall. The discussion that followed was basically supportive of the motion but members did ask that if the total wasn't raised was the project to be scaled back or would Reserve or Endowment be appealed to. Beier stated that Property was planning on appealing to Heritage families and the congregation as a whole, but that Reserve and or Endowment appeal is possible. The scope of the renovation, includes new carpeting installation, new lighting, repairing walls and ceiling, millwork restoration where need, some electrical, curtain cleaning and repair, painting and project management. The gas fireplace insert is a stand -alone project that would only be done if there were funds available after the above mentioned items are finished. It is noted that the library is included in this renovation project. Mason reminded all that even though this is a very generous community we should be aware that donor fatigue is a real possibility. A vote on the **motion passed unanimously.**

Added to the 2018 goals chosen by the Trustees at the Jan. 2018 meeting was the urgent need to address the conflicts in the ultimate governance authority between the minister's contract, by laws and the Board policies. **A motion was made and seconded** to have the Board of Trustees form a Governance/By law/Policies committee to repair tension and contradictions in these documents. **Motion passed unanimously.** It was proposed that this Ad Hoc committee be comprised of both trustees, endowment and congregational members. Wright and Maier agreed to be the trustee representatives. Peterson will be charged with the formation of this committee. Mason believed that since this issue was being tackled the language, responsibilities, and authority of the endowment section of the Bylaws be addressed too.

New Business:

Beier announced that the estate of Barb Seegert has agreed to fund the installation of air conditioning in the kitchen and dining room. Bids have been obtained and work will commence in the spring. A thank you has been extended to Lynn.

Mortgage pay-down: As referenced in the Treasurer's report, Jefferson presented the Board with the savings garnered over the life of the mortgage if we make a payment on the principal with \$12,500.00 from our Reserve Fund. **A motion was made and seconded to do just that.** Maier made a convincing case that doing this, when we are able, will save us money in the long run. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Reserve fund revision: This discussion was superseded by the establishment of a Governance committee as stated in Old Business.

Meeting adjourned 8:00

Respectfully Submitted, Judy Beier, Secretary

ALL SUBMITTED REPORTS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE CHURCH OR FROM THE SECRETARY