

First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2020
6:30 pm

Attending: Briquet-Miller (Presiding), Wright, Hemp, Jefferson (Treasurer), Mason (ex-officio), Monarski, Maier, Busig, Stezenski-Williams, Hall and Kurth

Chalice lighting, reading, reflections: The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by President Briquet-Miller. The board met via a tele-meeting using Zoom due to the coronavirus pandemic. Kevin gave a reading. The mission statement was also read. The group commented on the unusual nature of having to meet remotely in order to practice “social distancing” for health reasons.

Agenda Consent and Repair: Brian Stezenski-Williams moved and Josh Wright seconded to approve the agenda as printed. Sheryl Hemp will ask the congregational administrator to make paper copies of all board materials to put in the church mailboxes of all Board members. Because we are meeting remotely those materials are not available at this time to the Board.

Approval of the February 18, 2020 Minutes: Please see the report in writing. Approved by consent agenda after a motion by Josh Wright and a second from Kara Hall. Sheryl Hemp and Joyce Kurth abstained.

Treasurer’s Report: Please see the report in writing. Randy Jefferson presents a verbal report focusing on parking, pre-paid pledges, UUA dues and stewardship campaign pledges. In regards to the stewardship campaign, letters are being sent to those few whose pledges have not yet been received. It is anticipated that the campaign will then be closed by the end of March. We may then look to the Board to make calls to final donors in order to close the gap between our pledges and the budget. The campaign is doing well and on track. Brian Mason announces that the sexton position is not filled at this time. He will be pausing interviews during the pandemic. He also announces that Danika will be getting extra training on Quick Books. Approved by consent agenda after a motion from Joyce Kurth and a second from Josh Wright.

Minister and Staff Reports: Please see reports in writing. Approved by consent agenda after a motion from Heather Busig and a second from Brian Stezenski-Williams,

Treasurer Time Limits: Josh Wright and Karen Monarski will work on a proposal. It is anticipated that the proposal may mirror the current by-laws for Board members – 3 year terms, 2 consecutive terms and then 1 term off.

Studying Governance Model: It is suggested that we break this process into two pieces. 1) We will have a sub-committee (Karen Monarski, Heather Busig, Kara Hall and Jody Maier) look at the Board policies with the goals to clean up leading negative language and approaching policies as general or specific. They will report updates to the Board on a monthly basis. 2) We want to continue a chapter by chapter review of the book “Governance and Ministry” so that we can more actively put governance into practice at the church. We will plan on a separate (90 minute?) meeting per month in order to accomplish this process. The 4th Thursday of the month is suggested as a tentative date using both Zoom technology and in-person meetings. Jody will coordinate the process. The start may be at the end of April. The Board will evaluate the effectiveness of the process along the way.

Capital Campaign: Please see report in writing. Randy Jefferson leads a discussion on the viability of continuing with the campaign process at this time due to the pandemic. Should we wait until the virus/economic situation is resolved or improved? A campaign would require a lot of in-person meetings and connections as well as a favorable economy. This would be difficult under current conditions. Randy Jefferson and Brian Mason will reach out to have a conversation with our consultant Rachel. It is still anticipated that we can continue to do some ground work on the project and with endowment and could perhaps still launch our campaign at the time of our 150th anniversary.

150th Anniversary: Sheryl Hemp gave a report. Our anticipated celebration will occur the weekend of November 14-15.

Pandemic and Safety: Brian Mason in consultation with the Board have decided to close our building to gatherings, services and meetings for at least the next two months due to the current pandemic. We will follow the state guidelines that there should not be gatherings for more than 10 people and that social distancing of at least 6 feet should also occur. Brian announces that the staff will be creating a weekly podcast of the church service and will focus on other creative ways to keep the congregation connected.

Jody Maier will write the monthly Board article for the Circuit Writer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.

Respectively submitted,

Sheryl Hemp
Secretary