

FIRST UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF WAUSAU

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 16, 2018

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm

In Attendance: Beier, Briquet Miller, Busig, Hemp, Kurth, Maier, Monarski, Peterson (Presiding), Mason (ex officio) Spialek (staff), Trombley, (staff), Jefferson, Treasurer

Excused: Wright

Visitors: none

Chalice lighting, reading, reflections: Peterson on Martin Luther King story and quote

Agenda Consent and Repair: Two items were added to the agenda; handling of the 2017 surplus and election of officers.

Approval of December 19, 2017 minutes: All approved with Busig abstaining.

Treasurer's Report: Report submitted in writing. Jefferson highlighted portions of his report. He noted the strong December payment of pledges and also noted that there is still one outstanding as it involves the sale of stock and has yet to be finalized. Still donation will be for the 2017 budget and also the 2018. Expenses were below budget and income exceeded expenses by approximately \$20,000. The last of the endowment contribution to the operating budget (three year contribution with 2017 being the last year) will be return to the Endowment. It was moved, seconded that the surplus will be deposited into the Reserve Fund. **Motion passed** unanimously. Prepaid pledges are exceptionally higher for 2018/19, perhaps due to the new tax legislation.

Minister's Report: Report submitted in writing. Of special note is the Martin Luther King Jr. Award for Social Justice presented to our congregation for our efforts to promote social justice in our community.

Staff Reports: Report submitted in writing

Congregational Administrator: No report

Religious Education: Trombley said the new-year is off to a wonderful start with a full complement of teachers.

Committee Reports: Reports submitted in writing

Property Committee: No report. Details of Yawkey Hall renovation will be presented in Old Business.

Stewardship Committee: The committee consisting of Carl Drake, Marsha Fitzgerald, Christine Priewe and Sarah Thus announced that the “New Beginnings” campaign not only met but exceeded its goal of \$255,000 by over \$10,000. The Board of Trustees congratulates and thanks them. Maier was especially pleased.

Worship/Music Committee: Jefferson is very pleased with the cooperation and enthusiasm of all who have participated and who have volunteered to participate. Worship Associates have been scheduled through the 1st quarter of 2018. Choir practice is set to begin on Jan. 24.

Old Business:

Furnace Replacement: As noted in the Property report the two new furnaces have been installed. We have the cost quote for them and the labor but do not yet have the cost of the Friday after hours service call which involved 3 workers, three hours. A motion was made and seconded to use reserve funds to pay for the furnace (\$5,830.00) and the service call (as of yet unknown). After some discussion **motion passed** unanimously.

Membership Certification: Much discussion followed the information that of the 14 people who were contacted by board members regarding their desire to remain full members no one responded to the calls. The question remains how to handle those people who have not pledged but in some cases still participate in church activities. We are paying our fair share to UUA and the District depending on our census numbers and taking the names off our census roll will lower our fair share payment. However, there is much concern that we remain a welcoming community to all and deleting names does not seem welcoming. Also it was noted that many of those whose certifications were questioned have been pledging members in the recent past. Motion was made and seconded to leave all the names on as members and we will pay the UUA and District according to the number who have pledged in the preceding fiscal year. Motion passed 5 yeses, 2 noes, and 1 abstention.

Yawkey Hall Renovation: Peterson handed out the rough estimated of the costs of renovating Yawkey Hall. All estimates are preliminary and in some cases on the high end, but it gave the board the ability to review the proposed renovations.

New Business:

Reserve Policy Revision: Peterson passed out copies of the newly adopted Board Reserve Fund Policy (September 2017) and two suggested revisions to that policy from the Endowment Committee. He also gave out copies of the Endowment Declaration. There are discrepancies between the Board Reserve Fund documents and Endowment policy and these overlapping differences need to be addressed. There is some concern that the question of who is the final authority regarding church monies is not clearly defined. We feel that we need to increase the dialogue and understanding between the two groups (Board and Endowment Committee) and perhaps start that by asking for a quarterly report from them and inviting them to a Board discussion.

2018 Board Goals: To start perhaps multi-year discussions on:

How is membership to be defined and expanded?

How should we be governed? (Revisit and review our governance policy)

Explore ways to maintain and expand our Social Action footprint in our congregation and greater community.

Finish addressing the Reserve Fund/Endowment policy definitions and differences to come to a coherent and workable process.

Election of Officers:

Kurth put into nomination for 2018 Board of Trustee Officers: Tim Peterson- President, Kevin Briquet Miller- Vice President, Judy Beier-Secretary. Slate was approved unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned 9:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Beier, Secretary

Next Meeting February 20, 2018

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