

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SARASOTA
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting Minutes October 16, 2018

Attending: Ward Pallotta, Dale Anderson, Ava Whaley, Sharron Howard, Claudia Holtzclaw, Ed Loomis, Bill Payton, Anne McFarlane, Bob Kester

Staff: Roberta Druif, Roger Fritts, Catherine Bonner

Excused: Mary Lou Keller

1. Welcome & Check In: Ward opened the meeting at 7pm. Members shared life events. Ward read from a Herald Tribune article about the recent death of Harvey Vengroff and the promise of his sons to carry on his legacy of providing low-cost housing to the needy in Sarasota. Ward mentioned that one of the two main goals of SURE this year is to work for affordable housing.

2. Review/Approval of Minutes: **The minutes of September 18, 2018 were approved as submitted.**

Administrative Reports

3. Finance: Roberta reported that there would be no additional severance package for the departing RE Director other than the 30 days required by contract. The finance committee has agreed to authorize up to \$6000 for a new computer security system. She will report to the board on the exact cost and vendor at a future meeting.

4. Treasurer's Report: Bill, representing the Finance Committee, recommended applying for a grant application to an anonymous family foundation for up to \$15,000 for at least one power assist, push button door in the Sanctuary, Lexow Wing and the Reeb Room and crash bars. The application must be made by December 1, 2018. A motion was made and passed to apply for the grant.

5. R.E. Report: Catherine is excited to have accepted the RE Director position for the remainder of the church season. She is initially working on updating the RE portion of the website and communications. Students and parents are excited about the prospect of having new playground equipment. Catherine mentioned the need for RE volunteers and it was suggested that she recruit new church members, since they are not committed to other endeavors yet.

Old Business

6. ADA Compliance/Update: Ed gave a brief history of the ADA. Churches do not have to be compliant with ADA guidelines. Ed has done an inventory of items that may be considered for modification to address member needs and comply with some ADA guidelines. These include door handles, space for five wheelchairs in the sanctuary (we currently have three) and some parking lot changes. The Board asked Ed, together with Building and Grounds, to submit a three-year plan of recommended changes and their costs. That may include extending our two-service dates in order to lessen the load on the sanctuary and allow room for wheelchairs. Ava asked Building and Grounds to consider the addition of two benches on the walkway to the sanctuary from the parking lot so that members can sit while they await rides.

7. Ministerial Search: Dale updated the Board on the ministerial search. The search committee is pursuing two types of candidates – a FT assistant minister with RE responsibilities and a PT Minister and an RE Director. One candidate has applied. The search committee will determine his qualifications, interest and background.

8. SURE vote: Ward talked about the SURE vote procedure on Sunday, October 21. Congregants will be able to speak prior to the ballots being collected. Bill, Ava and Tracey will distribute ballots outside the sanctuary. Bill Geller and his team of ushers will collect and count the ballots *twice* after the vote.

9. Database: Ward, Tracey and Roberta met on October 5 to review Information System database packages used by churches. They will recommend one or two applications for purchase.

10. Volunteer Appreciation: Ava, Dee and Lois Lee met and have come up with five ways to recognize volunteers. They will meet again to recommend one or two for presentation to the Board in November.

11. Auction and Stewardship status: A Chair for Stewardship is still needed. Karen Bush has agreed to work with Ava, Bill and Ward on the Auction. A planning meeting will be held in her home on November 15.

12. Black Lives Matter (BLM)/UUA: Ward and Roger explained the history of BLM/UUA's request for a \$10 donation per church member to pay for a \$5 million commitment made to BLM. It is currently unclear how the money would be managed, spent and accounted for. Sharron and Ward will try to find out more information so an informed decision can be made.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

The next Board Meeting will be held November 20, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

Ava R Whaley

