

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SARASOTA
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting Minutes Aug 21, 2018

Attending: Ward Pallotta, Dale Anderson, Ava Whaley, Sharron Howard, Claudia Holtzclaw, Ed Loomis, Mary Lou Keller, Bill Payton, Anne McFarlane

Staff: Roger Fritts, Roberta Druif

Excused: Lisa Hill (Staff)

Absent: Bob Kester

1. Welcome & Check In: Ward opened the meeting at 7pm. Members shared life events. Ward read from Carrie Seidman's Herald Tribune column about the historic role that churches have played in the African-American community and how UUCS was present to support "Souls to the Polls," an ecumenical movement to combat voter disenfranchisement and provide free transportation to and from voting sites.

2. Review/Approval of Minutes: The minutes of June 26, 2018 were approved as written

3. Treasurer's Report: Bill recommended to the Board that, per the Finance Committee, \$25K is available for this fiscal year for the hiring of an assistant Minister. It was left up to the search committee to determine whether the position will be FT for several months or PT for the duration of this year. The Board's preference is for a PT Minister year-round.

4. Old Business: Ward requested input from the UUA on when a paper ballot should be used for congregational votes. Generally, a paper ballot should be used for controversial issues or when electing one person over another. **A motion was made, seconded and approved to use a paper ballot for the SURE vote on October 21.**

Citing a \$53K shortfall from our Stewardship campaign, Dale suggested trying to hire locally so as not to incur relocation expenses. Other options include a retired minister who is looking for PT work and a non UU minister who is sympathetic to UU principles. John Yoder has agreed to post the position online and Roger will continue to pursue his contacts. **A motion was made to authorize the Search Committee to proceed and was approved unanimously.**

Dale conducted a review of the progress made on thirteen 2018-19 projects. Board members reported on the status of their responsibilities, all of which are ongoing.

Roberta summarized key takeaways on “How to Make Churches Safer”. She distributed information on how to handle incidents outside and inside the sanctuary –both medical emergencies and physical disruptions. Church ushers have been trained and are charged with carrying out the safety plan. A suggestion was made to establish a link between the sound booth and RE in order to warn RE to lock the doors if a perceived aggressor was headed in that direction. The Staff will be taking a first aid course, fire extinguishers and defibrillators have been tested and are in place, sanctuary doors are unlocked during the service for easy escape and walkie talkies are being considered for ushers.

Ward addressed a request from UUA for congregations to raise funds for Black Lives UU. He decided to table the request until he can determine how the money will be used and tracked.

5. New Business: Ed reported that new, hurricane-resistant windows have been installed in the courtyard, new chairs have been ordered and are expected to be in place in early December, and Dee Widder will look into the disposal of the old chairs. The pipe organ will return to the sanctuary.

Dale led a detailed discussion of changes to the Policy Manual, as suggested by the Executive Committee and the DFO. Most are for clarification and simplification. Dale will incorporate additional changes and disseminate an updated copy of the manual at a future Board Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm.

The next Board Meeting will be held September 18, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

Ava R Whaley

