

Approved Board Minutes
First Unitarian Church, South Bend
December 11, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 By President Ron Robinson. The Board continued its visioning discussion from 6:30 to 7:30.

Present: Ron Robinson, Rev. Chip Roush, Suzanne Waller, Elena Wake, Melanie Smith-Guillaume, Bert Dodds, Janet Bogar, Anne Mannix, Howard Berberick
Absent: none, Guests: none

Note that motions are underlined

**Items for consideration in the next month's agenda are double-starred.

A. Check-in

B. Covenant

C. Set Agenda

D. Approval of November 2019 Minutes — Two corrections were made. Bert Dodds was absent (not Barbara Boyd). And in the Endowment project, there was a check request from Florence for \$300 (not \$400). Suzanne made a motion to accept the minutes with the two corrections above. Janet seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

E. Reports

** 1. Minister

— Chip asked about the «donate » button for credit card donations on our website. Ron talked to Kevin Barry, who said he would work on an Amazon button. There was a suggestion that Stewardship could discuss this to see if Kevin would be able to add a button for Vanco for donations to go through. See more on this topic under Old Business #4.

**— Chip also asked if we would consider getting an intern for Sept 2020 to June 2021. Paying for the intern would be a factor.

2. Coordinator of Religious Education — reviewed

3. President — none

4. Vice-President — none

5. Treasurer

— Elena reported that pledges are getting behind. Statements are sent out in December and May to remind members about their financial status.

— Next month Elena may not be able to submit a report due to international travel. Ron noted that we could get an indication of finances in December from the Bazaar, the Gingerbears, and receipts from the new credit card system.

6. Building Committee

— The inside back door near the RE rooms should always be locked from the outside so intruders can't get in, but open on the inside so people can exit in an emergency. But the lock has not functioned properly. It is being worked on.

— The roof and the gutters are done. The painting in the sanctuary should be done before Christmas.

F. Old Business

1. Memorial Garden

— The Grounds Committee has interviewed companies and has decided on Serene Scapes to do the hardscape for the Memorial Garden. However, the work will require \$1,500 more than was allotted. The Committee would like to pursue either a fundraiser or applying for funds from the Endowment. They are wondering if there would be money available in the budget. They would like direction. It is doubtful that there would be money in the budget. They need to have a contract to sign on with Serene Scapes.

— Anne made a motion and Suzanne seconded to allow the Grounds Committee to do a fundraiser after Christmas for the hardscape work and to pursue a contract with Serene Scapes. The Board will be the guarantor of the contract. Passed unanimously. Anne will talk to the Grounds Committee to tell them to send a contract for Ron to sign.

2. Ad Hoc Outside Lighting Task Force — Next meeting is Jan. 6. Ron is looking at pricing.

3. Welcoming Congregation Application — We need to have two LBGTQ-themed worship services and watch a video. Chip will talk to Peace and Justice to arrange the video watch event. Then we can send the UUA a plan of what we will do.

4. Amazon Payment Programs

— Kevin Barry has said he will work on an Amazon button for donations on our website (See Minister's Report).

— Apparently there are two different programs — Amazon Association which can donate 3-5% to charities depending on the item and Amazon Smiles which can donate 1/2%. A suggestion was made to conduct a survey of members to tell them we are considering having a link to Amazon to see how many would like this option. Members could contact a Board member. Suzanne will bring this idea to Stewardship.

5. Board Lasagna Dinner

— Dinner will be Saturday, January 11, 2020 at 6:00. Board members arrive at 5:00. What people will bring:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| - Bread/Martinelli's | Elena |
| - Wine | Suzanne |
| - Lasagna (everything) | Melanie |
| - Antipasto | Howard |
| - Desserts | Chip and Bert |
| - Lasagna (veggie) | Ron |
| - Salad | Anne |
| - Beer/set-up | Janet |
| - Set-up and Clean-up | All |

G. New Business

1. Fixing the wall in the sanctuary — The plan is to have it done by Christmas. We already have the insurance money to cover it.

H. Adjournment at 8:55.

Submitted by

Melanie Smith-Guillaume, Secretary