



Board Minutes Status: Approved
First Unitarian Church, South Bend
April 13, 2022

Present: Gail deSomer, Catherine Lundergan, Anne Mannix, Rev. Chip Roush, Ken Chambers, Becky Lindstrom, Kay Azar

Absent:

Guests: Lynn McDonald, Joseph Gress, Dan and Lois Holm, Pat Davis, Chuck Leone

The meeting is called to order at 7:03 p.m. by president, Anne Mannix

I. Introduction

- A. Chalice Lighting – Rev. Chip
- B. Check-in
- C. Covenant
- D. Approval of Minutes from the March 9th Meeting - Ken Chambers moves to approve the minutes. Motion is seconded by Catherine Lundergan. Motion passes.
- E. Set Agenda

II. Reports

A. Minister's Report:

Need to add discussion of covid policy/information on website. Becky suggests we switch to "COVID Ask Now" thru UUA, 5 color coded system. Better and more clear than the info we get from the State. Need to match the 2 levels to know where we are during this change over. We are currently in a position to have in-person gatherings. Our phone system still says Center for Hospice on caller ID

B. President

1. COVID Policy Update – See above
2. Changing the date of the Annual Meeting to the 15th of May so the Auction can be on the 21st. There will be no problem doing this; new members will still have 30 days and we have time to give adequate notice.

- C. Treasurer – To balance the budget we need to tap into and nearly deplete our savings account. Chuck reports on Endowment requests. Take \$5000 mortgage payment out of the budget as there has been an Endowment request to cover that \$5000. Gail offers to do cleaning and remove the \$1000 cleaning service line. Budget discussed and suggestions taken for decreasing proposals for decreasing line items. Look to decrease printing of OOS in general and encourage people to use the electronic version sent out at the end of the week, hoping to decrease paper waste and toner.

Becky reports that parents are not anxious to have the kids inside with a structured curriculum, but prefer they be outside. Looking towards less structure and "scholastic". They will still need structured activities built around cooperative play and socialization. Not looking for a new DRE due to the challenges this presents. Lets expand our community/team using 3-4 people who would be the DRE Team (DREAM Team) and they would be in charge of activity planning and execution. The RE committee would be in charge of recruiting the

Team and organizing who would be running activities while continuing to engage all adults in the congregation. The funds for DRE would be split between all 3-4 persons on the team.

We are running a proposed deficit budget. Invisible Church Fund is a restricted, target fund for advertising and cannot be used for the general budget. Can it be eliminated from the budget? Possible to have a „second“ pledge drive to bolster our income. Gail Moves to accept this budget with changes as suggested, Kay seconds. Motion passes unanimously. The question becomes whether to present as a deficit budget and ask for increased pledging, discussing this at the Annual Meeting

D. Committee Reports

Religious Education Committee Report – see above

Stewardship Committee: 56 pledging units. Majority of members over 70 and giving 70% of the budget.

Endowment Committee - Chuck preports +\$18,000 available and equivalent requests. See report for specifics. They recommend all proposals be funded. A recommendation is made to accept the proposals; the proposal will go before the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

III. Old Business

Response from the Letter Writers: Chuck responds to the Board's letter. This should just be the beginning of conversation about who we are, where we are and where we need to go; where will we be 10 years from now as the aged members decline. Asks the Board to schedule a Board Meeting with the congregation to start getting data, engaging in discussion and planning ahead. We need to draw the congregation in more/better. This meeting would be between now and the Annual Meeting. Is the context right for growing our mission/vision/values. We need to talk about how to move forward with brainstorming with the whole congregation.

Have a brainstorming meeting after the Annual Meeting so that we have both the old and new boards with participation by the whole congregation. Agenda to be determined and voted on at May Board meeting. Catherine makes the motion, Gail seconds. Ken abstains.
Motion passes

IV. New Business

Attorney Resignation - Chuck reports that he is retiring at the end of April and will no longer be able to do law work for us.

Dan asks what's the Board's plan for refilling the vacant Board seats. The nominating committee has a full slate prepared.

V. Other Business:

A committee of Chuck, Dan, Gail and Anne will prepare a proposed agenda for the congregational meeting and bring back to the board for discussion.

VI. Adjournment at 9:08 pm.

Next Board of Trustees Meeting: Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Azar, Secretary, Board of Trustees