



**Meeting Minutes
Board of Trustees
First Unitarian Church, South Bend
August 10, 2022, 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Gail deSomer, Florence Klecka, Karen Dickson, Rev. Chip Roush, Lynn Liston, Bill Stevens, Elena Wake

Absent: Ken Chambers, Becky Lindstrom

Guests: Pat Davis, Jim Ward, Rin Adams

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:04. Rev. Chip led the Chalice Lighting. Next was check-in and recitation of Covenant.

Approval of minutes

Motion made to accept the July meeting minutes by Gail, seconded by Bill. Carried unanimously.

Changes to Agenda

Add to Old Business: Faith in Indiana status, RE Committee, Retreat, Conflict Resolution.

Reports

Reports from Minister, Treasurer, Office, and Committees received in packet. Additional information given in meeting:

Office: Pat D. walked us through her report, showing us the link to Board documents and monthly packets. This includes the church website, policies, bylaws, directory, and other information. Gail asked her to also put the pulpit host list in this folder, and Pat agreed.

Minister: Asked for any questions or comments.

President: No report, due to eye surgery.

Treasurer: As promised, Kathy Vetter and Susan Van Fleit made a few other changes to the previous reports, and they are in the packet. A \$1,000 donation to Faith in Indiana was taken from the Invisible Church fund, but since the collection for them was about \$700, that amount will be put back. The budget forecasts a deficit, but for now we are in the black.

Technology Committee: As Ken is the liaison, this is postponed until next month

Stewardship Committee: Bill asked for input and ideas. Ken has expressed the desire to make this a standing committee, instead of the Vice President chairing it every year, making continuity difficult. Chip suggested that Bill talk to Anne Mannix and Gary Metzler, who are currently

members of the Committee, before asking the Board for their help. This will also be discussed at the Board Retreat.

Old Business

New Security Company: Tabled until the September meeting.

Faith in Indiana. Rev. Chip reported that church members were attending the local event that very evening, and reiterated that the donation proposed last month had been made.

Adult RE Committee: At the July 27 meeting, many people who had expressed the lack of Adult RE activities were invited to attend. One problem they mentioned was who will contact a snow removal firm or person when necessary. As the Grounds Committee liaison, Lynn will ask committee members for help on this.

Another problem was needing more publicity for events. Gail asked to become an administrator for the Church's Facebook page, and Chip agreed to make it so.

Board Retreat: As Ken's surgery made the August 6 date unworkable, he had suggested the last Saturday of August. Since Chip will be on vacation then, Gail suggested the weekend after Labor Day, and contacted Ken and Becky to determine their availability. Becky responded, but we will need to wait to hear from Ken.

Conflict Resolution: Lynn moved that the Board develop a shared document to present ideas ahead of time to be discussed at the retreat. Florence seconded it.

Discussion: This document, as well as other useful pieces of written information, would help the Board to address the ongoing dissatisfaction that arose last year between various members of the congregation, and the Board's response to it. Karen asked about the conflict in question, and Chip and Gail gave a short history. Several people wrote letters to the Board about dissatisfaction with services and other aspects of church life. The Board responded in a letter, which Gail will send to new BOT members so they can better understand the situation. A special Church Circle was held in June to address members' concerns (see report in packet), but this did not appear to be effective, since most people did not understand its intentions. Jim, as new chair of the Committee on Ministry, encouraged the Board to discuss the various issues brought up by the letter writers at the Retreat. Rin suggested that more attention be paid to people who attend services on Zoom. Elena felt that discussing Chip's work while he was present was disrespectful and, for obvious reasons, not as effective. Chip appreciated her concern, both on his own behalf, and for the honesty of such discussions. Florence urged people to continue this discussion at the retreat.

The motion passed.

Adjournment

There being no New or Other Business, Karen moved to adjourn. Gail seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Next Board of Trustees Meeting: Wednesday, September 14, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. eastern time

Respectfully submitted by:

Florence Klečka, Secretary, Board of Trustees