



Board of Trustees
First Unitarian Church, South Bend
February 8, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Present: Gail deSomer, Florence Klecka, Karen Dickson, Ken Chambers, Elena Wake, Becky Lindstrom, Rev. Chip Roush

Absent: Lynn Liston, Bill Stevens

Guests: Kathy Platt, Anne Mannix

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:03. Chip led the Chalice Lighting. Next was check-in and recitation of Covenant.

Approval of minutes

Motion made to accept the January meeting minutes by Gail. Carried.

Changes to Agenda

Waiving Covid restrictions for the Anniversary events was added to New Business, and COM's request for a mediated meeting added to Other Business.

Reports

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

Minister: Gail asked if the Board needed to do anything to announce that Emily Flanery is the church librarian, and to get her a door code. Chip agreed that various announcements can be made in the Chirp and via pulpit announcements. It was generally agreed to get her a door code.

President: Nothing to report.

Treasurer: We're still in the black, although, due to the usual dropoff in income and expenses bringing the balance down, plus various large expenses recently, this will not continue past a few more months. Rev. Chip wondered why speaker fees in January should have made a difference, as they should have come from his professional expenses account. Elena pointed out that it cannot work that way. Florence promised to figure out, with the help of Elena, Chip and Finda, how to make next year's WAC budget reflect actual expenses, as the projected deficit balance at the end of the church year will inform next year's budgets for Minister's Professional Expenses, Sabbatical, and Worship Arts, with careful records as to how and why they are being adjusted, for future reference.

RE Committee: Gail wondered if plans for the St. Patrick's Day parade and children's artwork display in April will involve RE. She will ask for clarification from Diana Mendelsohn.

Stewardship Committee: In Bill Stevens' absence, Barbara Boyd and Anne Mannix have stepped up to take the reins for the Canvass this spring. They may need office help in printing address labels for envelopes.

Old Business

Board Town Hall Meeting: Followup to suggestions made at the December Town Hall meeting:

RE: The OWL program will probably be led this fall, with Tama Crisovan and Rich Williams leading it.

WAC: Anne Mannix will look into getting another camera for the sanctuary.

It was decided that the next Town Hall meeting will be on April 2, after church. Florence will notify the Social Committee, and Gail will ask for child care.

New Business

Waiving COVID restrictions for the Anniversary events. Anne Mannix gave an update on the plans for the Anniversary events in March. Louise Williams is doing PR for most of them, and Jim Ward is handling PR for the concert on Saturday night. Kathy Platt noted that food is a part of every event that weekend, and Karen Dickson mentioned that Jim needs to know how many tickets can be sold for the concert. Florence moved that the Board of Trustees waive the current COVID policy, in the event that the county's COVID status is not green on that weekend. Gail seconded.

Discussion: Karen pointed out that Peter Mayer's appearance would be costly, and it would be beneficial to recoup some of the cost. Becky wanted to make sure that people realized that no refunds would be forthcoming, if they decided not to attend, and that volunteers were aware that certain restrictions would be lifted. Anne recommended making an announcement to this effect. Chip worried that this would be putting profits above health. Karen responded that it was not the money as much as being able to plan ahead. Consensus was that people could still be asked to mask if the status was not in green.

The motion passed.

Endowment proposals: The Board discussed various ideas for committee liaisons to suggest to their committees as to proposals from the Endowment Fund, as the deadline for proposals is March 1. Gail: More outside signage, for the Building Committee. Karen mentioned cameras for the sanctuary (Worship Arts). Elena will submit a proposal for paying down the mortgage principal, for the Finance Committee. Gail mentioned that Kathy Platt and Lois Holm plan to propose substituting a door for the window that leads to the patio. Since this will involve Aesthetics, a security system, and the Building Committee, she wondered if the Board needs to be involved in the proposal, since so many issues are involved. Florence suggested an ad hoc committee, mostly already formed, take care of the details for the proposal.

Other Business

Mediated meeting: Gail reported that at a recent Adult Forum, it was discussed at length that the desire for a mediated meeting still exists. Lynn McDonald, from the Committee on Ministry, particularly desires one, ideally with a local mediator, to save on costs. Charlotte Pfeifer was suggested, as was former member Sharon Kniss, who now lives in Washington (her participation would have to be via Zoom). Gail moved that the Board of Trustees direct the Committee on Ministry to arrange a mediated session for the church, to be held by the end of the church year. Karen seconded. Motion carried, with two abstentions.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next Board of Trustees Meeting: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. eastern time

Respectfully submitted by:

Florence Klečka, Secretary, Board of Trustees