

Minutes, Board of Trustees
First Unitarian Church, South Bend
14 May 2025

Present: Chuck Leone, Gail deSomer, David Mayfield, Fern Hamlin, Eli Williams, Dan Holm, Jeremiah Cox, Francisco Gomez-Dossi

No visitors

I. Introduction

A. Chalice lighting

B. Check-in

C. Covenant

D. Approval of Minutes from the 9 April 2025 meeting. Gail offered an amendment: for section IV. D. Endowment, the first bullet point should read “Grounds committee” rather than “Building committee.” Dan moved, and Gail seconded to approve the amended minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Set agenda. David added approval policy for ongoing fundraisers.

II. Reports

A. President’s report--Chuck. As written.

B. Vice-President’s report--Gail. Pledge total is \$145,920, from 86 pledging units.

C. Treasurer’s report--David. Monthly financial report did not make it into the board packet. David will make sure to send a copy to the office so that it can be included with the official board materials.

D. Office report--Dr Louise Williams. Should the leadership roster be included in the members only section of the church website? Consensus was **yes**.

E. Committee reports. Jeremiah noted that our button distribution at the Michiana Consciousness Festival went well.

III. Old Business

A. Discrepancies in Church Alcohol policies. Gail questioned Church Mutual with unclear results. She will ask them again, the single clear question: Who should provide the insurance, the church or the renter.

B. Status of minister search. Chuck. We may need to pivot quickly on the budget if the currently interested candidate works out. We might need to ask the congregation for more money. David will work up budget numbers for possible quarter-time and half-time minister.

C. Administrative Committee Submissions.

a. Check Signing Policy draft. Jeremiah moved, and David seconded to approve the policy. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Community Service Policy draft. Francisco moved, and David seconded to approve the policy as **Community Service and Activism** policy. Motion carried unanimously.

- At this point the subject of board approval for fundraisers was raised. It was agreed that committees need to secure board approval for all fundraisers (new or ongoing) and that committees need to be alerted to this, which Fern will do. In the meantime, David moved, and Fern seconded, to approve the ongoing fundraisers CASIE Center Stockings, We Make Indiana, and the CROP walk, as well as the proposed children's service project at The Res. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Events Committee draft. Dan moved, and David seconded to approve the committee description. Motion carried unanimously.

d. Memorial Fund policy. Francisco moved, and Dan seconded to approve the policy. Motion carried unanimously. Fern asked for clarification regarding board approval of the Building Fund/Rainy Day Fund as a specific fund that can be donated to at any point by anyone. It was explained that this fund had been approved at some point last year. Therefore, memorial donations can also be designated for this fund.

e. Social Committee draft. Dan moved, and Gail seconded to approve the amended description. Motion carried unanimously. (Final bullet point now reads: Assist with the social aspects of the annual pledge drive and other special events specified by the Board.)

f. Stewardship Committee draft. Dan moved, and Gail seconded to approve the amended description. Motion carried unanimously. (Under Specific Duties, sentence now begins "Plan and execute the annual pledge drive and canvass new members....")

D. Ratification of Melanie Smith-Guillaume nomination as alternate on Nominating Committee. Gail moved, and David seconded to approve this motion. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. New Business

A. Budget for 2025-26. Jeremiah moved, and Eli seconded to recommend the budget to the congregation. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Determine the process for the name change. Chuck. Discussion of the desirability of having a separate congregational meeting for this. Suggested date of Sunday, June 8, 2025, 12noon. The congregation will be asked to approve this at the upcoming annual meeting. Chuck also explained the legal and practical reasons for continuing as First Unitarian Church, South Bend, with a new Doing Business As name.

C. Invitation to rejoin United Religious Community (URC). Some board members were surprised to learn that we no longer belonged to the URC, of which we had been a part of for many years. Fern moved, and David seconded the motion to rejoin the URC and to donate \$200 annually. Motion carried unanimously. Chuck will take care of the paperwork and check request (line item #750, Denominational Dues).

D. Volunteer of the Year selection. A volunteer was suggested. David moved, and Jeremiah seconded the nomination. Motion carried unanimously.

V. Other Business

A. David explained that the interest earned by the church CDs had been rolled over with the principal. Consensus was that this was acceptable practice and should be continued.

Dan moved, and Gail seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 9:11pm.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, 11 June 2025, 7pm, in the Conference Room.

Fern Hamlin
Board Secretary

Summary of assignments from 14 May 2025 board meeting:

Gail--contact Church Mutual again regarding liquor liability insurance

David--work up budget numbers for quarter and half-time minister possibilities

Chuck--rejoin us to URC, request \$200 check

Fern--communicate fundraising guidelines to committee chairs