**All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church**

**Minutes of Meeting of Board of Trustees**

**Friday May 15th, 2020**

Board Members Participating Electronically

Harriet McMillan, President; Eleanor Allen, Treasurer; Robert South, Secretary;

Catherine Burns, Shannon Starkweather-Burke, Heather Winn, Rebecca Carr, Trustees

Also Participating Warren Allen, Collector; Till Fritzsching, Building and Grounds Chair; Marty Pelham, Pastor

Opening

Marty lit a chalice and said some words. Everyone participating checked in. Harriet called the meeting to order at 8:40

Minutes

**Eleanor moved approval of the April minutes. Heather seconded. Motion Passed**

Treasurer's Report

Eleanor is still getting a grasp of problems with the books. **Eleanor moved that we agree to send the requested $4967 to the UUA Program Fund. Rebecca seconded. Motion passed**. The Treasurer has reviewed the statements to assure they are reconciled, and the statement will be filed for audit. Also, Eleanor reported that the Hospice wants to borrow tables and chairs on July 14th. **Robert moved we loan Hospice our banquet tables and folding chairs on July 14th. Eleanor seconded. Motion passed.** Eleanor will contact them and they will be required to do the transporting. Robert will let them in.

Minister’s Report

The UUA guidance coming out is that mass gatherings should be called off for the rest of the calendar year, but we do still have congregational polity. **Robert moved we keep Marty on for another year after Marty’s current contract expires. Rebecca seconded. Motion passed.**

President’s Report

There was an executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Business

1. Church Mutual Proposal

Till reported that Church Mutual had offered a total settlement for the building of about $93000. Church Mutual would pay $65000, and the remainder of the funds would be in an account to be drawn on to pay for specific work. The contents offer was around $30000, but the organ is still awaiting an expert assessment. Once we accept an offer there should be an Ad Hoc meeting to plan the construction work. Eleanor asked for a clarification, which is that the public adjuster’s percentage would come out of the first $65000 payment. **Robert moved that we accept the building settlement as Till described it. Catherine seconded. Motion passed.**

2. Shared Plate

Warren reported on the state of collection receipts and suggested that since less money was coming in for shared plate, divided between three organizations this year, we should consider (1) keeping the same organizations for another year and/or (2) asking members to make additional donations to be bundled with the shared plate money. One benefit would be more spots on NCPR. **Robert moved that the board recommend the congregation make an exception to its policy and keep the same charities again next year. Catherine seconded. Eleanor pointed out that this year’s nominees are also worthy. Motion passed.** Robert pointed out that we will have to gather and vote on new nominations just in case the congregation doesn’t concur with the recommendation. Also, he will explain this in the weekly post every week until the annual meeting.

3. Summer Worship

Eleanor said we need people to volunteer to do worship services, probably on line. Marty said there was planning going on for up to half of our worship services this year to be joint services with other congregations. In some cases, we would be joining larger congregations (like Canton) and in other cases even smaller congregations would be joining us. A worship committee retreat is being planned for July 21st.

4. Annual Meeting

The Annual Report and Annual Meeting invitations will go out around Memorial Day. Only a couple of reports are missing from the Annual Report, and it includes the proposed changes in the bylaws. At Harriet’s request, Robert explained the plan for voting: votes will be sent to Marty through the Zoom Chat. Robert will provide Marty a spreadsheet with a list of voting members for easy tracking.

5. Stump Grinding

Rebecca reports that Till has gotten a bid from Birchenoff, who offers to do stump grinding for $1800 and wants to complete this project ASAP. Once the stumps are ground down and the area beside the parking lot can be mowed that will prevent the buckthorn coming back. Robert said his stump removal process with the chainsaw would take time and effort and that we would need this if we are in a hurry and said he would second a motion for it and vote for it, but wouldn’t make the motion. Till said the buckthorn will be more work to totally kill if the area is not mowable. Harriet said we might be able to afford it considering the insurance settlement has reduced our need for building repair funds. Rebecca said we should consider totally replacing the skylights. Eleanor pointed out that the north wall of the sanctuary would also need expensive work. Catherine said it should come out of the building and grounds budget for capital improvements. Robert said he could keep shoots under control. Till said the stumps look horrible aesthetically. Rebecca said we would need topsoil and grass seed. Eleanor asked if that was included. Till wasn’t sure. **Robert moved we authorize an email vote on this matter once all the information is available. Catherine seconded. Eleanor asked why the stump grinding has to happen in the next month and we can’t wait until the next meeting. Motion passed.**

6. Zell Donations

Rebecca suggested we could add Zell as a means for donations. Eleanor reported that she doesn’t think Americu participates in Zell.

7. Poll Location

**Robert moved we offer our building to the Board of Elections for a polling place. Catherine seconded. Motion passed.** Harriet said to just call the Board of Elections and see if they are interested.

Checkout

The executive committee will meet on June 5th, and the next board meeting will be the joint one with the old and new boards on June 19th at 8:30. Harriet adjourned the meeting at 10:08.

Draft May 18th, 2020