

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church
Minutes of Meeting of Board of Trustees
Thursday, Oct. 22, 2020

Page 1 of 2

Board Members Participating

Robert South, president; Heather Winn, vice-president; Karen Hall, secretary; Eleanor Allen, treasurer; Shannon Starkweather Burke, Catherine Burns, Rebecca Carr, Joanne Harter, Trustees

Also Participating

Pastor Marty Pelham; Angelo Guarino (during Treasurer's Report); Harriet MacMillan

Opening

Robert called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. Marty lit the chalice.

Minutes (Karen)

Eleanor moved to approve the minutes of the Sept. 24 meeting; Rebecca seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report (Eleanor)

Eleanor noted that due to COVID and the subsequent closing of the church, we have had far fewer expenses than during a normal year. Meanwhile, revenue is coming in on pace.

Eleanor moved to accept Morgan & Stanley's offer of free security monitoring for 24 months of all of our accounts at both UBS and AmeriCU. The offer is compensation for a data breach at Morgan & Stanley at a time when we still had an account there. **Heather seconded; motion passed.**

Angelo reported that he reviewed our UBS accounts to discern the volatility of the markets; he has no concerns. Investments are being managed well; the balance sheet looks healthy.

Eleanor notified that the Bldg. & Grounds voted to suspend trash pick-up, saving about \$24 a month; Warren & Robert are bringing whatever little amount accumulates to the landfill. Diego could be asked to put it in his dumpster.

The Treasurer has reviewed the statements to assure they are reconciled, and the statement will be filed for audit.

Minister's Report (Pastor Marty)

On Oct. 3rd, Marty passed their Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC) panel with no contingencies; they have now entered preliminary fellowship, and the next step is ordination. They have resumed traveling to Watertown on Tuesdays, except Oct. 27 and Nov. 3. Marty has registered for the Healthy Communication Practices Webinar for the South-Central NY Cluster on Sat., Nov. 7, from 1-4 p.m. The workshop is free and open to any who wish to participate. An announcement of the workshop will be included in both the Weekly Post & the November newsletter.

President's Report (Robert)

A discussion of Robert's emailed proposal to formally define the roles of our ASUUC committees was set aside for another BOT meeting to allow BOT members time to read the document Robert attached to his email.

Karen moved to enter into executive session for a personnel matter; Eleanor seconded. Motion passed.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Art and Altar

Robert proposed merging the Art & Altar Committee with the Worship committee. Approved by consensus.

Membership

Catherine noted that there will be a Zoom meeting of the Membership Committee when she returns from Arizona.

Memorial Garden

Marty asked whether the garden gate could be secured better, to avoid entrapping animals such as deer. Rebecca will take a look at it when she is at the church today. In response to Joanne's inquiry, Catherine will ask Veronica about drawing a map to the garden, if there is none.

Social Action

After some discussion, Shannon agreed to be acting chair of the SA Committee while a potential permanent chair is solicited among the congregation. Karen opined that a chair is needed to initiate and conduct meetings; however, there are members who continue to work for social justice, such as the work being done to aid migrant farm workers. Marty suggested sharing information about that work; Harriet noted her reluctance in the past to post sensitive information about migrant farm workers in the newsletter.

Diego has agreed to install the Black Lives Matter banner on the exterior of the church. Rebecca will inform Diego of the banner's current storage location and of the desired location for placement on the building. Eleanor explained that she, Shannon and Robert decided that the best spot for the banner is centered over the door to the RE wing, where there is the most visual exposure.

Buildings & Grounds

Rebecca indicated that some interior walls are ready for painting. She expressed concern about the appearance of the debris behind the church, as a result of the tree removal project.

New Business

As a follow-up to formalize an earlier straw poll via email among BOT members, **Eleanor moved to approve both the rebuilding of the wall behind the kitchen sink and dishwasher (due to black mold) at a cost of \$ 1295.25, and the replacement of the skylight in the foyer, at a cost of \$ 1329. Catherine seconded. Motion passed.** Aguilar Construction will do the work.

Ordination

In response to Marty's request, **Karen moved that ASUUC coordinate with the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse to conduct a combined ordination service. Heather seconded. Motion passed.** Marty proposed an online ordination service on Jan. 24, 2021. Eleanor assured Marty that any costs associated with that service, such as payment for a featured speaker and a musician can be covered under the Worship Committee's budget.

UU-UNO Collection

In response to a request from Sylvia Heap, **Eleanor moved to collect donations from congregants for UU-UNO, and to approve the use of ASUUC funds to add whatever amount is needed to create a total donation of \$ 100. Heather seconded. Motion passed.**

Call for Additional New Business (Robert)

Catherine reminded us that the First Frost virtual event is happening this Sunday. She thanked donors, and noted that those desiring to participate in the event's Zoom meeting must be registered by Sunday morning at 9 a.m. Contact Joanne Harter or Catherine for further info.

Presentation (Marty)

Marty conducted a discussion of civility locally and elsewhere, and assigned homework for each of us to do before the next BOT meeting.

Checkout

The next meeting will be November 19 at 9:30 a.m., via Zoom. Robert adjourned the meeting at 11:14 a.m.