

UUCM Board Meeting April 19, 2017, 6:30 pm

Attendance: Board: President Holly Hanauer, presiding. Past President Sherry Ware, President-Elect Jerry McKean, Vice President Susan Bossung, Treasurer Usha Shivaswamy, Minister Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd. Absent: Anna Dillinger, Youth Representative.

Visitors: Lisa Cox, Jennifer Hollems, Alice Bennett, John McKillip, Tom Lowe, Judy Lowe, Jean Filson, Steve Robert.

The regularly-scheduled monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie began at 6:45 pm with a check-in, chalice lighting, and opening words. Members of the Board and the minister read the Covenant.

Minutes of the March 15, 2017 Board meeting were approved, with one correction: on page 2, under Reports, the first sentence in the 6th paragraph should read: "The Communications Committee has not yet revised a Facebook Policy."

The Agenda was approved as distributed by Hanauer.

Reports

President Holly Hanauer reported that she attended the Facebook policy discussion held after the church service on April 2. Opinions expressed included being offended at the way the policy was presented, a desire for a place to express one's views, the suggestion (from a business perspective) that one should never remove negative comments, the need to remember that newcomers may get a negative impression of our community from the Facebook page. Not everything posted is factual; some is based on misunderstandings. The Communications Committee will receive suggestions for policy revisions. A private Facebook page has been started for conversations that are not appropriate on the UUCM page. The Board may be presented with a revised policy proposal at some point.

The Two-Services Task Force has prepared formal guidelines for the meeting on May 7. Speakers may form a line at 8 microphones: one for Pros, one for Cons, one for Questions, and we will alternate from one line to the next. Speakers will give their name, which will be recorded by Sharon Seager, and can only speak once. Speaking time will be limited to 2 minutes, and the time clock will be shown on the overhead screen. Task Force members will be available to answer questions. The meeting will be limited to 90 minutes. President Holly Hanauer has been asked to serve as moderator.

Hanauer has forwarded to the Task Force some questions and concerns about the two-services proposal. What has gone wrong for the 20% of churches that have tried two services and not been successful? How will success be evaluated and measured, and what will the passing percentage be for the vote next year? The Task Force members are addressing these questions in an update to the proposal which will come out on May 1.

Hanauer reported that Board members are aware of the anxiety, negativity, and conflict appearing in various circles. She has reached out to the MidAmerica Region for some assistance. She will be speaking with Sharon Dittmar, a Congregational Life consultant, later this week, to see how she might help us navigate through this challenging time. The Board will be included in subsequent conversations.

Past-President Sherry Ware reported that the Nominating Committee has met, and will announce its recommendations for officers by May 1. Two additional people will help organize the Service Auction: Kim McKenzie and Beth Gonzer.

Vice President Susan Bossung reported that the Program Council met, under the leadership of Caroline Sullivan. There were no representatives present from Adult Religious Education, Communications, and Stewardship Committees.

Treasurer Usha Shivaswamy presented two reports: UUChurch of Muncie Income & Expense, July 2016 through March 2017, and Balance Sheet Previous Year Comparison, as of April 1, 2017. She reported that pledges for the 2017-18 fiscal year have reached 70% of the goal set by Stewardship.

Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd repeated to the Board and Visitors his apology to Vice President Susan Bossung for the critical and inappropriate way he expressed his disagreement with her in a recent public forum.

Carrier-Ladd reported that Sunday Services appear to be going well. The recently-concluded theme of "Identity" was capped with a multi-generational service. A decision was made to combine the recognition of New Members and of long-time "Heritage" members in the same service.

He plans to try "Soul Matters" themes at UUCM. Approximately 200 congregations will be focusing on the same themes, and will be able to take advantage of ideas, material, readings, from many shared sources.

The Two-Services Task Force has responded to comments and criticisms aired in several forums, and will present a revised proposal about May 1. Fundraising for the additional expenses, if the proposal is approved, is going well. Approximately \$9000 has been promised.

The OWL program is successful.

Rev. Seth will attend the UUA Mid-American Conference in Chicago.

New Business