

Approved as revised 6-21-17)

UUCM Board Meeting May 17, 2017, 6:30 pm, draft

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

Visitor: Linda Hanson

The regularly-scheduled monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie began at 6:40 pm. With a check-in, chalice lighting, and opening words. Members of the Board and the minister read the Covenant.

Minutes of the April 19, 2017 Board meeting were approved as submitted.

Minutes of the special Board meeting on May 3, 2017 were approved as distributed.

The agenda was approved as distributed, with one addition: discussing a date for a Board Fall Retreat.

Linda Hanson was invited to present to the Board the findings of the Committee on Ministries. This special committee had the task of identifying the ways in which the various "ministries" of the church are working—or not working—effectively. In order to prepare their report, the committee scheduled a series of meetings with three focus groups following Sunday services to gather responses from the church community. This year they focused on the UUCM Board, Staff, Property Maintenance, Communication, Fellowship, Religious Education, and Muncie OUTreach. Hanson's committee found a serious problem in the areas of communication. Few members appeared to understand the basic organization of the church: what the Board does, the various committees and task forces, or how decisions are made. There appear to be serious shortcomings in communication, despite the announcements made in the Sunday blue bulletin, the weekly eBlast, or the monthly Unigram, Many members get their "information" only from Facebook and other social media.

Hanson suggested that the Board and members of various committees should be challenged, early in the fall, to focus on how their work fits (or not) into the Mission and Vision of UUCM.

Rev. Seth noted that some churches schedule an annual "congregational check-up" for the purpose of reflection and self-evaluation. Stopping to see the "big picture."

Regarding the Pokagon debt still owed to the church, Hanson reported having been unable to communicate with the group recently. They must understand that unless the debt is erased by June 30, the church will no longer participate in this event.

Reports

President Holly Hanauer reported that UUCM has 5 delegates to General Assembly in New Orleans: Liz Lowe, Jean Filson, Elizabeth Carrier-Ladd, Gary Jeffers, and Jerry McKean. Holly will work to get them registered and credentialed. All of the delegates plan to participate electronically in the UUA President's election.

Hanauer attended a meeting of the Investment Committee today. Martin Hillery and Rob Santoni from Indiana Trust presented quarterly reports on or invested funds, which have all done well this year. Linda Gregory will work on an update to the Investment section in the Policy and Procedure manual to include a listing of each fund and how it is meant to be used.

Hanauer has recruited a team of tellers for the upcoming Congregational meeting. They will assist in counting votes, handing out and collecting paper ballots if needed, handing around the microphone, etc.

Christie Williams, the Office Administrator, has provided absentee ballots for a number of members, and has collected them for counting by the tellers at the appropriate time. She has provided several updated lists of members eligible to vote. Sherry Ware, Sharon Seager, and Hanauer contacted some members whose voting status had lapsed because of no "contribution of record," so they would have a chance to make a contribution if they wished. Williams has provided considerable assistance in preparing paper copies of the proposed budget, power point slides, and the Annual Report.

Past President Sherry Ware, in her role as Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of nominees for offices that will be voted on in the Congregational meeting. The Nominating Committee recommends: Board President Elect: Ginny Nilles, Board Vice President: John Bartlett*, Board Treasurer: Jennifer Hollems, Nominating Committee: Lisa Kuriscak, Board Youth Representative: Anna Dillinger.

*Susan Bossung resigned her position as Board Vice President, effective May 1, 2017; the Board voted to appoint John Bartlett as Vice President to complete Susan Bossung's remaining two-month term on the Board.

New Business

Motion

John Bartlett moved that Jamie Butterbaugh be appointed to become a new member of the Committee on Ministries. Sherry Ware seconded the motion. The **motion passed** unanimously.

Motion

Sherry Ware moved that UUCM endorse the program of the Citizens Climate Lobby. Jerry McKean seconded. The Adult Discussion Group invited Ted Wolner to talk with them about the

nonpartisan CCL carbon tax policy proposal. Linda Hanson, spokesperson for the League of Women Voters of Muncie-Delaware County, and Wayne Meyer are strong supporters of CCL. There was a brief discussion among Board members about the wisdom of endorsing such a program without first getting the approval of the congregation. Rev. Seth argued that the Board should have the power to do this.

McKean amended the motion on the floor, to ??? [my notes are not clear about what happened. There was apparently a revised motion, seconded by Sherry Ware, which then passed unanimously.]

Hanauer reported that she had a further conversation with Sharon Dittmar about ways of dealing with the conflict that has appeared in the congregation—between some individuals and the minister, between different factions arguing for or against 2-services proposal, from some strong critics of the Board, Dittmar suggested she could lead a meeting by Skype. The Committee on Ministries could be invited to join with the Board. Or she could do a cluster training, inviting additional congregations to join in. There was no clear consensus about this.

Hanauer will poll Board members for agreement on a date for a fall retreat. It will be an all-day affair at the church, with participants providing their own lunches. Joel Tishkin will be invited to attend and participate.

Treasurer Usha Shivaswamy presented the Treasurer's Report, which included Income & Expense, July 2016 through April 2017, Balance Sheet Previous year Comparison, as of April 30, 2017, the Accountants' Statement of Financial Position as of March 31, 2017.

Vice President John Bartlett reported that the Program Council met recently, and discussed the problem of the lack of a chair for Adult Religious Education.

Youth Representative Anna Dillinger reported that the OWL Program was coming to an end, and was successful. The Youth Group will soon embark on its service program this summer.

Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd reported that worship services were going well. Music Appreciation Sunday was well received. He was pleased with the presentation of John Gibson, whose sermon about working to save the planet was fitting for Earth Day. He plans to focus a part of one Sunday service to expressing Gratitude—thanking all the people who worked in one way or another for the various church activities this past year.

Carrier-Ladd, along with Margaret Reeder and Iris Chalk, presented the Sunday Service at the Mid-American Regional Assembly in Chicago.

Rev. Seth reported that conflict in the UUA has erupted recently, particularly over allegations of racism.

Rev. Seth reported that, if the proposal for Two Sunday Services passes, the additional money needed to meet expenses has all been pledged.

He reported that the search for a new Choir Director is ongoing.

Rev. Seth will be on leave all of June and July, and the first 2 weeks of August (vacation, paternity leave)

At 9:05, the meeting went into a brief executive session, to deal with a personnel matter. The regular board meeting resumed at 9:14. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Seager, Secretary.