

Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie, Minutes of Board Meeting, Sept. 20, 2017

The regularly-scheduled monthly meeting of the UUCM Board convened on Wednesday, September 20, 2017, at 6:30 pm.

Attending: President Jerry McKean, presiding, Past President Holly Hanauer, President-Elect Ginny Nilles, Treasurer Jennifer Hollems, Vice President John Bartlett, Secretary Sharon Seager, Minister Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd. Absent: Youth Representative Anna Dillinger.

Joel Tishkin, ministerial intern, attended as observer.

Jay Moorman attended as invited guest, representing the Communications Committee, and to share his experiences and expertise with electronic and social media with the Board.

The agenda was approved as distributed by President Jerry McKean.

Minutes of the August 16, 2017 meeting have not yet been distributed to the Board; consequently, they have not yet been approved.

Reports

Treasurer Jennifer Hollems presented the Treasurer's Report. The Balance Sheet showing a comparison to the previous year, as of September 19, 2017, showed higher assets than last year, primarily due to increases in Trust Funds investments, but decreases in our Money Market Accounts. Several persons expressed criticism about the church's recent apparent pattern of operating with a deficit budget.

The treasurer emphasized the importance of the upcoming Fall Fundraising campaign, which needs to raise enough funds to "Bridge the Gap" between income and expenses.

Minister Seth Carrier-Ladd reported that Sunday worship services are going well. The Water Ceremony attendance was lower than in the past. Volunteers in the various church activities were given special thanks and recognition. Joel Tishkin, ministerial intern for this year, was formally introduced to the congregation and thanked for his present and future contributions. The two-services trial has started. Attendance has been smaller at the first service than the second. There have been a few minor changes in the Order of Service between the two services. Ministerial intern Joel Tishkin plans to initiate some small-group ministry groups, if possible. He will recruit facilitators, and will probably rely on material in the book *Soul Matters*.

Carrier-Ladd reported that he plans to take a sabbatical next year, lasting five or six months. Planning for a minister's sabbatical has been a regular part of the annual budget which the congregation has approved. Rev. Seth reported that he and Rev. Julia Corbett-Hemeyer have begun meeting regularly with the several church members who now live in the Westminster Retirement Community.

Carrier-Ladd reported that the UUCM Webmaster Matt has resigned. He is looking for a replacement. Ginny Nilles volunteered to assist in interviewing candidates. There is nothing yet to report regarding the search for a new choir director.

It was reported that White Supremacists verbally harassed some OUTreach members at the recently-held Washington Street Festival. Jerry McKean volunteered to write a letter to the editor about this.

The committee that supervises the expenditure of SOS (“save our sanctuary”) funds proposes buying two new chairs, for a total of \$672. Ginny Nilles moved to approve this expenditure; John Bartlett seconded it. The motion passed.

The date of the fall Congregational meeting was set for Sunday, October 22, 2017. The agenda will be published in advance, and will include approval of minutes of the previous Congregational meeting on May 21, 2017, and a vote to approve the “Bridge the Gap” financial report.

New Business

Board members and Jay Moorman discussed the difficulties and controversies that have arisen in the use, or misuse, of electronic and social media sponsored by UUCM, primarily the private and public Facebook pages. The Communications Committee has been unable to implement and enforce a satisfactory policy to moderate content. The Board thanked the Communications Committee for its efforts.

Motion

Ginny Nilles moved and Jennifer Hollems seconded that both the private and public Facebook pages will be moderated by staff employees of the church. The motion passed, with one abstention.

Vice President John Bartlett moved, and Sharon Seager seconded, to ask the Committee on Ministries to develop a Healthy Relationships policy that should include the entire congregation. The motion passed unanimously. Vice President John Bartlett proposed that organizing the annual fall family retreat, which has been held in recent years at Pokagon State Park, be done by a new special committee. This change will obligate the committee to plan, make arrangements, and keep financial receipts and records, in accordance with the UUCM Policies and Procedures manual. This special committee will report to the head of Program Council.

The OUTreach organization, rather than being a special committee, is defined as being an Affiliated Group of UUCM, and is authorized to do its own fundraising.

Unfinished Business

The Board briefly discussed the upcoming “Bridge the Gap” financial campaign. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Seager, UUCM Board Secretary