

UUCM Board Meeting, November 15, 2017

Attendance: President Jerry McKean, presiding, Vice President John Bartlett, Treasurer Jennifer Hollems, Secretary Sharon Seager, Youth Representative Anna Dillinger. Ginny Nilles participated via a Bluetooth device that enabled her to hear and be heard by those who attended in person. Minister Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd, who was out of town attending a conference, joined the conversation beginning at 7:20 pm.

The regularly-scheduled monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie began at 6:30 pm with a check-in, chalice lighting, and opening words.

It was moved and seconded to approve of the agenda as distributed. The motion passed.

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2017 Board meeting with one revision: On page 2, under Unfinished Business, in the section about the work of the Committee on Ministries, the word "policy" should be replaced by the word "covenant." The revised wording now describes a "Healthy Relationships Covenant."

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting went into executive session at 6:30, to discuss a personnel matter. The regular meeting resumed at 6:55 pm.

Reports

President Jerry McKean reported that he has continued to perform the regular duties of the position. In addition, he met once again with the Finance Committee. Usha Shivaswamy reported that the Bazaar and Rummage sale grossed nearly \$17,000 before expenses. McKean has made an additional pulpit announcement about the Bridge-the-Gap Campaign.

He has been recruiting for the Long-Range Planning Task Force, with two responses pending.

He has followed up with Dylan Ford of the Grounds Vision Task Force. Ford

is compiling the results from the feedback sessions with the congregation and will report on them. He has talked with Coly Tabberson, who received Board permission to create a new sensory garden, about communicating more closely with Property Maintenance Committee leaders.

McKean has prepared a poster about UUCM's accomplishments in the last year. It will be on display at the Harvest Feast and next Sunday. McKean is planning to appoint members to two new special committees: the Two Services Evaluation Committee and the Safety Committee. He is also assisting in preparing materials on

Planned Giving to the church.

Vice President John Bartlett reported that he and President McKean have attended sessions of the UUA Program "Soul Matters," which this congregation has subscribed to.

The Inquirer Series, which UUCM has purchased, has had no participation so far.

Bartlett reported that two additional persons have been hired to do childcare.

Several committees need additional members: Social Justice, Stewardship, and Hospitality. The Second Harvest food bank has communicated that they have a special need at present for

additional support.

Bartlett reported the purchase of a new PC, which will be used for Financial matters. He aided in the installation of applications and moving data over to the new PC.

Treasurer Jennifer Hollems reported that pledges are coming in stronger this year than last year. The Bridge the Gap campaign has raised more than \$13,000 so far. The Bazaar brought in

\$17,845, which was a record high figure. Hollems noted that the Finance Committee has set a target of \$300,000 for next year's budget.

This will present a challenge to reduce spending. The Finance committee is planning to recommend a face-to-face canvass to get

pledges for next year.

Youth Representative Anna Dillinger reported that the planning for the youth service trip to the Arizona border is getting firmer. Parents and youth participants have to decide soon whether or not they will go.

Minister Rev. Seth Carrier-Ladd entered the audio discussion in the meeting by phone at 7:20 pm.

He reported, regarding Sunday services, that Matt Reeder has joined the Worship Associates. He noted that several services recently have been oriented to themes of social justice: 10/8 Gun Violence, 10/15 Dismantling White Supremacy, 11/5 Immigration, 11/12 Ending Rape Culture. They have been well-received. Overall attendance is greater, compared with last year.

He meets weekly with our intern, Joel Tishken, for supervision and theological reflection. It will soon be time to work on his mid-year evaluations.

A Westminster Lunch is scheduled for October 19. Rev. Julia Corbett-Heymeyer and Rev. Seth are working to re-invigorate the Pastoral

Associates. Unfinished Business

Jerry reported he has begun to identify people who might serve on a long-range planning committee.

The Bridge the Gap financial campaign is going slowly. One cost-cutting measure is happening: the position of webmaster is not being filled in the near term.

Rev. Seth reported he attended PICO (faith-based community organizing) National Conference in Indianapolis. The Indianapolis-based PICO affiliate is planning to expand soon to become Faith in Indiana, and operate state-wide. He has begun conversations with several UUCM members interested in community organizing in Muncie.

Rev. Seth provided the UUCM Committee on Ministries with two examples of UU churches' "Covenant of Right Relations." (Madison, WI, and Seattle, WA).

At 8:07 pm, Rev. Seth ended his participation by phone via the Bluetooth Conference Speaker.

A brief executive session followed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm. Respectfully submitted by Sharon Seager, secretary.