

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana

Seeking the Spirit, Building Community, Changing the World

Approved Board Minutes

December 21, 2016



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| <u>I. CALL TO ORDER 7:00 PM</u> | 2 |
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| 1. DEBRIEF DECEMBER 11 TH , 4PM CONGREGATIONAL MEETING | 3 |
| 2. FUTURE OF STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE | 3 |
| 3. HEALTHY COMMUNICATIONS COVENANT (HCC) | 3 |
| D. MONITORING (PER BOARD POLICIES, SECTION V) | 4 |
| 1. III.A-E: GOVERNANCE PROCESS: REV. MACKLIN AND VON WILL DISCUSS AND PRESENT A REVISED MONITORING CALENDAR AT A FUTURE BOARD MEETING. ARZETTA WILL PROVIDE SUGGESTED DATES FOR MONITORING FINANCIAL REPORTS. REV. DITTMAR OF THE MID-AMERICA REGION RECOMMENDED THAT WE SPEND MORE TIME MONITORING OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM. VON WILL TALK WITH REV. LEITE AND ADRIENNE SUMMERLOT REGARDING TIMING. | 4 |
| E. NEW BUSINESS | 4 |
| <u>V. EXECUTIVE SESSION</u> | 4 |
| <u>VI. ADJOURNMENT 9:00 PM</u> | 5 |

Board members attending: Von Welch, Connie Nelson Laird, Helmut Hentschel, Arzetta Hulst-Losensky.

Not attending: Deb Hutton, Doug Cauble, Pat Brantlinger.

Present by invitation of the Board: Matt Stonecipher.

Minister attending: Reverend Scott McNeill.

Submitted by: Arzetta Hulst-Losensky.

Document attached: Future of Stewardship Charge.

I. Call to Order 7:00 PM

Call to order by Von Welch, President, at 7:00 PM.

Changes to the agenda: Section E. Monitoring was discussed prior to D. New Business.

II. Chalice Lighting and Reading

Chalice lighting and reading by Von.

III. Check-in

Attendance and check-in.

IV. Main Meeting

A. Approval of Previous Board Minutes

Approval of the November 2016 Board of Directors Meeting minutes and December Congregational Meeting minutes were deferred to January 2017.

B. Minister's Report Reverend Scott McNeill

1. Minister's Report Reverend Scott McNeill

November and December have been full of events charged with bringing our community together. Following Election Day (Nov 8th), many people gathered for the worship service led by some of our youth leaders and the ministers. After that came a story and craft evening for kids to get to know Rev. Scott (with one planned in the spring for Rev. Mary Ann). December offered another opportunity for members to welcome Rev. Scott and his family, as part of our transition process.

Throughout those two months, Sunday morning worship has been well-attended by members and visitors, as was a community concert soon after the election. The staff held a retreat, facilitated by the Rev. Sharon Dittmar (who joined us earlier in the Fall); the ministers are coordinating responsibility for different areas and tasks within the congregation, as well as a covenant amongst themselves and the many UU ministers in the larger Bloomington community.

Many of our social justice task forces have seen a renewed commitment in the past 6-8 weeks; the Social Justice grant application process has helped to coordinate their plans for the upcoming year with Jackie Hall and Rev. Scott. As the city of Bloomington prepared to welcome refugees from Syria and Sudan, our congregation became a leader in organizing different forms of assistance. The past three/four months has seen the announcement that Bloomington was selected for refugee relocation (via an application process with the State Department) and the

announcement that federal funding for this relocation will not be approved in the coming Fiscal Year (essentially canceling this program). Individuals and organizations have been given a number of ways to help meet the needs of refugees; our own task force leaders will meet to discuss a path forward given this news (which broke the week of Dec. 11).

Congregational life is moving forward at a healthy pace – the Thanksgiving pitch-in, Bazaar, congregational meeting, and soon holiday services (Winter Solstice, 2 on Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day) will wrap-up and bring us into 2017. The VALE program has gotten off to a good start, with a couple of calls already this fall. Membership continues to succeed with Ann LeDuc; Orion Day has focused on ways of connecting college students and young adults with volunteer opportunities suggested by social justice task forces in their yearly application.

2. Leadership Cultivation Committee Report Matt Stonecipher

LCC is active. There is a focus on a two-phase approach. LCC wants to maintain nominations for the Board and to cultivate members to become leaders. LCC works in partnership with Ann LeDuc, Connections Coordinator, and maintains lists of names and skill sets for candidates for leadership positions. Matt asked how LCC could help the board. We will need a slate of four board positions at the June 2017 congregational meeting. Doug and Arzetta are finishing their terms. Connie is finishing Von's term as vice president and Helmut is finishing Deb Hutton's at-large term. Additionally, Von's term on the board will end in June 2018. There will also be an opening on the Special Purposes Committee.

C. Old Business

1. Debrief December 11th, 4pm Congregational Meeting

2. Future of Stewardship Committee

Von and Helmut are the two Board representatives on the committee and Rev. Macklin will be the Ministerial Liaison. They will invite others to serve on the committee per the proposed charge.

Motion by Von: Move forward with the Future of Stewardship Committee as described in the proposed charge.

Seconded by: Arzetta.

Vote: Unanimously approved.

3. Healthy Communications Covenant (HCC)

Connie will take point on HCC. We have received good and constructive feedback and she will work on revising it to replace the negative wording with positive statements. We will want to clarify the relationship of the HCC with our principles. At the January board meeting we will discuss HCC outreach to various groups within the church.

D. Monitoring (per Board Policies, Section V)

We will strike the capital plan monitoring in January since we looked at it recently.

1. III.A-E: Governance Process: Rev. Macklin and Von will discuss and present a revised monitoring calendar at a future Board meeting. Arzetta will provide suggested dates for monitoring financial reports. Rev. Dittmar of the Mid-America Region recommended that we spend more time monitoring our religious education program. Von will talk with Rev. Leite and Adrienne Summerlot regarding timing.
2. IV. A-D Board–Senior Minister Relationship (every month): The Board has not made any significant changes in this area. Rev. McNeill pointed out that awareness of self is an indication of health. The Board is being pro-active rather than reactive, looking at what has not worked and asking how we can improve.
3. Observation from congregation regarding the “Lucy Booth”: A member pointed out that Lucy was not a nice character and gave nasty advice.

E. New Business

1. Visioning: Discuss “Who is our larger community?”

What do we see our church becoming in the future? Who is our larger community? Live streaming has changed who this could be to include the whole world. Who do we work with and who do we want to influence? We have some natural lines of communication – IU, other religious organizations, Islamic Center, local charities, and social justice organizations. Where do we want to have the largest impact? Is community beyond our membership? What is our reach within the UUA? Other UU churches often look to Bloomington. Social justice committees are a means of defining communities and our influence - for example, fossil fuel divestment. From whom should we buy gas (what company is the most environmentally friendly)? What things are we doing that are collaborative (e.g. building homes with Habitat) vs those in which we are a lynch pin – i.e., they wouldn’t happen without us, e.g., Planned Parenthood being formed in Bloomington? Is our community defined by those who question things? If community isn’t defined by creed, what does define it? Who would we not welcome or work with? If any division keeps us from working with someone, is that isolationism? We will work with some groups on some things and be on differing sides on others. Look for commonalities.

Rev. Scott shared a quote from Rev. David Bumbaugh: “What do we believe? Whom do we serve? To whom or what are we responsible?”

(<http://www.uuworld.org/articles/unfulfilled-dream>)

V. Executive Session

The board met in executive session at 8:40 PM.

VI. Adjournment 9:00 PM

Motion by Von: To adjourn.

Seconded by: Connie.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Future Planning:

Next Board meeting:

- *Wednesday, January 18, 2017*
- *Reading: Doug Cauble*

Upcoming announcements: 12/25 Arzetta; 1/1 Deb; 1/8 Von; 1/15 Connie; 1/22 Pat; 1/29 Von

Future of Stewardship Committee

Charge

December 2016

The Future of Stewardship Committee is charged with recommending to the Board of Directors changes and new initiatives that UUCB should undertake to stabilize, diversify or grow its fiscal support. The Committee should consider changes such as the decreased carrying of cash by Sunday service attendees, and the increasing online view of services versus in-person attendance. The Committee should consider both changes to the existing fund-raising efforts (Stewardship Campaign, Sunday Plate, etc.) and new efforts that could be undertaken. The Committee is encouraged to consider lessons learned from other congregations (UU or otherwise) and non-profits.

The Committee's report to the Board is requested at the Board's April meeting (currently April 19th). Preliminary reports and discussions with the Board are welcome.

Proposed committee membership (to be invited): Ann Conners, Helmut Hentschel, Jaime Kirkley, Mary Ann Macklin (ministerial liaison), Drew Schrader, and Von Welch. In the event proposed members decline, the Board members involved will select appropriate replacements in consultation with the Senior Minister.