

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana

Seeking the Spirit, Building Community, Changing the World

Approved **Board** Minutes

March 15, 2017



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Board members attending: Von Welch, Connie Nelson Laird, Arzetta Hulst-Losensky, Deb Hutton, Pat Brantlinger.

Not attending: Doug Cauble, Helmut Hentschel.

Present by invitation of the Board:

Ministers attending: Reverend Mary Ann Macklin, Reverend Scott McNeill.

Submitted by: Deb Hutton.

Documents attached:

1. Senior Ministers Board Report 2017-03-15.
2. Reports to the Board March2017.

I. Call to Order 7:02 PM

Call to order by Von Welch, President, at 7:02 PM.

II. Chalice Lighting and Reading

Chalice lighting and reading by Deb. Poem "A Stitch in Time" by a Hoosier high school student.

III. Check-in

Attendance, Check-in, & Determination of Quorum.

IV. Approve Minutes

Approval of **December 2016 Congregational Meeting** minutes deferred to April.

Approval of **February 2017 Board of Directors Meeting** minutes deferred to April.

Motion by Arzetta: To approve the **March 2016 Special Congregational Meeting**
See notes in Reports from the Board attached.

Seconded by: Von.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

V. Minister's Report Reverend Mary Ann Macklin

1. Minister's Report (Reverend Mary Ann Macklin)

See attached: Senior Ministers Board Report 2017-02-15.

2. Staff Report: Connections Coordinator (Ann LeDuc)

Connections Coordinator Report delayed until April at Ann's request.

VI. Old Business

1. Future of Stewardship Committee Update (Von, Helmut)

See notes in Reports from the Board attached.

2. Healthy Communications Covenant (HCC) Feedback (All)

See notes in Reports from the Board attached.

3. Monitoring Revision Update (Von, Rev. Macklin)

Von and Rev. Macklin are meeting and will bring policy suggestions to the Board at a future meeting.

4. Safety Improvements (Doug)

This is more complicated and expensive than expected. More information is needed and more discussion of goals and limitations.

5. Installation for Rev. McNeill (Connie, Doug)

See notes in Reports from the Board attached.

VII. Monitoring (per Board Policies, Section V)

1. *I. All Ends Statement Policies*
 - a. *Direct inspection by the Board. Required exhibits: Senior Minister Report, and Membership Coordinator report. (Deferred to April).*
2. IV.A-D: Board – Senior Minister Relationship (every month): Good.
3. Report from “Coffee with the Board” (Pat)
Talked to two people, one for the first time, and had light conversations.

VIII. New Business

1. Process Change: Written Reports to the Board (Von)

See notes in Reports to the Board attached.

2. Debrief of Special Congregational Meeting in March (All)

3. Proposed New Board Policy Regarding Sanctuary (Von)

See notes in Reports to the Board attached.

Motion by Von: To amend Board Policies per the proposal.

Seconded by: Arzetta.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

IX. Visioning: Discuss (ii) "What do we see our church becoming in the future?"

Carried over from February.

X. Executive Session

The board met in executive session at 8:25 PM.

XI. Adjournment 8:55 PM

Motion by Pat: To adjourn.

Seconded by: Deb.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Future Planning

Board Calendar - Board Policies

Next Board meeting:

- *April 19th*
- *Reading: Connie*
- *Staff report: Connections Coordinator Report (delayed from March)*
- *Report from Future of Stewardship Committee*
- *Report on Regional Activities (deferred from March)*
- *Prepare for HCC Town Hall on April 30th*
- *Monitoring:*
 - *II.D1: Annual Budgeting*
 - *II.E: Financial Condition*
 - *I.H: Communication And Counsel To The Board*
 - *III.F: Standing Committee(s).*
 - *IV.A-D: Board – Senior Minister Relationship (every month)*

Upcoming announcements: 3/19 ____, 3/26 Deb, 4/2 Arzetta, 4/9 Pat, 4/16 Von

Upcoming: HCC Town Hall April 30

Upcoming: Congregational Meeting on June 11th

Board Goals and Open Questions for 2016-17 Board Year

- Based on Hotchkiss, Dan (2016-01-14). Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership, Chapter 8. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition
- Goals to Be Completed in 2016-17
 - Establish Healthy Communications Covenant and Healthy Communications Committee
 - Determine and Establish next step for Stewardship
- Open questions for 2016-17. To be explored by the Board with thoughts captured in Minutes or supplemental reports.
 - Who is our larger community? What is our message to and relationship with them?

- What do we see our church becoming in the future? What will we leave to the future UUs?
- Proposed plan to address Goals and Open Questions
 - Nov: Discuss charge re Stewardship Futures
 - Dec: Finalize charge re Stewardship Future, launch WG. Discuss (i) Who is our larger community?
 - Jan: Discuss (ii) What do we see our church becoming in the future?
 - Feb: Discuss (i) Who is our larger community?
 - Mar: Discuss (ii) What do we see our church becoming in the future?
 - Apr: Receive report re Stewardship Future
 - May: Draft report for minutes. Consider HCC next steps at June Congregational Meeting.
 - Jun: Finalize report on Goals and Questions to include with minutes.

March 15 Board Report
Reverend Mary Ann Macklin
Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington

Aside from our weekly worship services, two major events have occurred in March which have garnered a lot of attention and energy from the ministers. First our visit from Dr. Megory Anderson as part of the VALE Training weekend, and Second, the congregational vote to become a sanctuary congregation.

(1) With the steadfast help of Arzetta Hults-Losensky we were able to secure a grant from The Center for Congregation to cover the actual training costs for the VALE weekend. The grant totaled, \$3,313. 28. It is important to continue to nurture our relationship with the Center and I, along with Dr. Megory Anderson, met with them on March 7th as a follow-up to the training. In addition to the training we had two community events which were well attended. The first was on Friday, March 3rd entitled “Dying to Talk about It, a lecture featuring Dr. Anderson at Ivy Tech, and the second was at IU Health Bloomington Hospital. This event was a panel with Dr. Rob Stone, Dr. Megory Anderson, Marielle Abel (physicians assistant), and Pastor Wendy Vanderzee. The space was quickly filled and we had nearly 100 attendees. I, Reverend Macklin, facilitated the panel. Lastly, Dr. Anderson was our guest in the pulpit for both Sunday Services and a public reception was held after the event. Many thanks to everyone who helped to make this weekend a success.

(2) On March 9th, the congregation voted 167-0 to become a Sanctuary Congregation. Much preparation and work by Reverend Macklin and Reverend McNeill went into the weeks preceding this vote. Education was offered from the pulpit, on-line, through email, and various open meetings. The Board and ministers worked hard together in order to move toward the March 9th vote with an opportunity to hear from congregation members and to offer a vision and education.

We are also cognizant that this vote is a first step toward the many ways of providing sanctuary to those in need. We have begun meetings with community stakeholders regarding sanctuary in Bloomington. We are also in touch with Gracia Valliant who is creating an Immigrant Witness Program which is a non-violent program to witness the interactions of Immigration and Customs Enforcement with local immigrants, when this occurs. We will also be meeting with local attorneys who specialize in immigration law to better our understanding of how to go forward in ways best to empower those we serve.

Preparations continue for our April 22nd, Pledge Day and I am also meeting with our Future Stewardship Working Group to explore possible financial strategies for the future of stewardship here at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington.

We hosted Representative Matt Pierce here on March 1st to learn more about how to interact more effectively with your legislators. And, as part of a renewed Chalice Speaker Series, we will be hosting Rob Boston on March 31st. Leadership for this event is from the Humanist forum, notably John Crosby and Harold Ogren.

Pastoral issues continue with several members in failing health.

Reports to the Board

March 15 2017

Old Business

Future of Stewardship Committee Update

Committee membership: Ann Conners, Helmut Hentschel, Mary Ann Macklin, Drew Schraer, Von Welch

The committee is meeting approximately every two weeks and starting to form some findings and recommendations. A draft report will be made to the Board at the April Board meeting.

HCC Feedback

HCC Town Hall has been Scheduled for April 30th

In the Library, between services 10:15-11:15.

Green Sanctuary Task Force, March 5, 2017 (Von Welch)

There were about a dozen people in attendance. At their request, I started with a ~3 minute overview of the documents, and why the Board is proposing them. The feedback was generally positive both regarding the documents and our process, with the most negative thing being lamenting the fact these are needed. Specific comments and questions were:

- They missed having some specificity they felt was in the first draft. It was noted a focus on being positive could muddy things. A specific suggestion was to add a third column giving examples or implementation guidance.
- Would there be training given to the congregation regarding the HCC? They suggested a number of curriculum packages exist we could leverage.
- They suggested the covenant could make for a good educational tool.
- What happens if the HCC conflicts with their existing covenant?
 - I subsequently got a [copy of their covenant](#) and see no conflict – Von

Parent Talk, March 12, 2017 (Deb Hutton)

There were about 11 people in attendance. I handed copies around of both the draft Covenant and Committee description, explained why the Board is proposing them, and took questions. Three long-time UUCB members had never heard of the HCC. Most thought that it is a good idea, another tool for everyone who serves or attends UUCB. One person described the negative communications that helped to initiate the HCC, but the group decided that the HCC

would have been a benefit to disputing parties at that time. They also recommended that information about the existence of the HCC and its contact information absolutely must be published in multiple ways at least 2-4 times a year.

Monitoring Revision Update

Progress is being made on a [revised set of Board policies](#). It will be presented to the Board by the end of the current Board year.

Safety Improvements

February 27th email from Doug Cauble:

I spoke with John per board request regarding security at the Church. I asked John specifically if he felt the Church needed any additional security equipment or systems. Electronic locks, door and window status indicators, metal detectors or monitored security systems etc. John, felt we are in good shape. He works with these type of systems, and said they were very expensive and at times temperamental.

John did indicate the building is very dark inside at night and that can be problematic. His recommendation is to look at the possibility of installing additional nightlight fixtures.

Reverend McNeill Installation Report

Doug and Connie reviewed the UUA document about how to plan installations and ordinations and met with Scott since the last board meeting. We discussed dates, logistics and his hopes and expectations for the event. The date was set for an early afternoon service and then reception on Saturday May 20, 2017. Doug checked with the UUA MidAmerica Region folks to clear the date as that group is meeting in the area that weekend. The Mid America board is enthusiastic about the date. This will be convenient saving travel time and expenses for the folks attending Scott's installation from that group. The date is also open at the church and now on the calendar with a request for child care in. Connie reached out to Maggie Talmage to help design the invitation and discussed with Carol logistics of a bulk mailing. March 20th week we plan to send the save the date email out to key folks and put the announcement in church communication. The 2nd week in April we plan to mail the invitations out. Scott and Mary Ann will take the lead in planning the service. A few of the other next steps are reception planning and developing a service project that to be incorporated into the event which is one of Scott's hopes. Connie, Doug and Scott will meet next week to continue to work out details for the event.

Monitoring

I. All Ends Statement Policies

Ends Statements are being reviewed as part of Monitoring revision.

IV.A-D: Board – Senior Minister Relationship (every month)

There have been no issues with the Board Senior Minister relationship.

New Business

Process change: Written reports to the Board

There are several advantages of having reports to the Board be made in writing and available several days ahead of the Board meeting:

1. It simplifies the job of the Secretary since they have less to record;
2. It allows Board members to read reports ahead of the meeting and come better prepared to discuss;
3. It can save time during the meeting since reports can be potentially accepted without discussion (even multiple reports at once using a Consent Agenda).

We have not consistently asked for written reports. The proposal is that the Board start expecting reports to be written and provided three days ahead of time (typically on the Sunday before a meeting). If this works well, we might consider incorporating it into a Board Policy in the future.

Proposed new Board policy regarding Sanctuary

On March 9th the congregation, at a Special Congregational Meeting (called on February 27th), adopted the following resolution by a 167-0 vote:

“We hereby resolve to become officially and publicly known as a Sanctuary Congregation, letting that be known to groups who may coordinate a relationship with someone nearing deportation, as well as informing the broader Bloomington, Southern Indiana, and UU communities of our intention and commitment.

Before hosting a person or family in our space, we will seek to build a relationship with them so that each party feels comfortable that this would be a fruitful and safe undertaking, respecting the needs and boundaries of both the guest and the congregation.

By virtue of our policy-based governance, the Senior Minister will be responsible for undertaking the implementation of this process (though she may delegate that as necessary). The Board of

Directors will set policies around this process, and monitor the situation in accordance with its governance model, offering support on behalf of the congregation, when and as is possible.”

This resolution calls on the Board to set policy to guide the Senior Minister with regards to being a Sanctuary Congregation. The following policy, circulated to the ministers for comment, is a proposed addition to our Board policies:

Policy II.I: Sanctuary

As a sacred place, we may be called upon by our UU Principles, and the Mission and Vision of our congregation to provide sanctuary. The Senior Minister is authorized to provide sanctuary with the following conditions:

- *Sanctuary can be offered when it aligns with our UUA Principles and the Mission and Vision of our congregation, ensuring that our sanctuary is respectful of the inherent worth and dignity of those to whom we provide sanctuary.*
- *Our congregation will network and seek support from the broader community to balance the positive outcomes with the risks and impact to the ministers, staff, congregation, and others in our space.*
- *The Senior and Associate Minister will assure that education is established for the congregation to support its commitment to providing sanctuary.*
- *The Senior Minister will regularly inform the Board regarding any potential sanctuary as far in advance as possible. If we provide sanctuary, the Senior Minister will report regularly to the Board on logistics and any issues.*