

**Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation**

**Draft Minutes Board of Trustees Meeting**

**September 24, 2017**

**Call to Order:** 12:30 pm by Anne Stark

**Board members present:** Anne Stark, Kathy Campbell, gg gordon, Dave Rockwood, Nancy Sullivan

**Other attendance:** Barbara Michael, Susy Swanson, Martin Steindler, Mary Maki

**Opening words:** Reading 689 from Singing the Living Tradition.

**Approval of Minutes:** Briefly reviewed. It was decided that the Board email any corrections to the secretary, rather than take time for this at the meeting.

**Approval of Agenda:** So moved by Dave, seconded by Nancy, all agreed.

**Treasurer's report:** Reviewed three handouts: Budget vs actuals for August, 2017

Statement of activity, August 2017

Statement of Financial Position, August 2017

Handouts are attached. Noted that revenue fell behind receipts by \$1947.87 and that expenditures exceeded that budgeted by \$789.72. It was noted that shortfall is common at MUUC in the summer months. Will hope that quarterly statements will prompt some giving. Will continue to monitor and may need to adjust plans accordingly. Stark noted that \$67,360 needs to be added to our liability portion on our Statement of Financial Position, with total liabilities then being \$68,232.81. That adjustment would bring our Total Liabilities and Equity down to around \$292,300. Stark will have this page reflecting our mortgage corrected going forward.

**Religious Education Report-** none submitted.

**Board Liaison Reports:**

**Building and Grounds:** Rockwood reports exterior building work expected to start soon if it hasn't already. Anne will get additional paving bids from Jet Black. Reports bids on paving will be proportional to amount paved. Rockwood did minor repairs in furnace room to cover exposed wires, and did flood light repair in sanctuary. A missing cover in multipurpose room needs fixing still.

**Communications:** Anne Stark plans to continue with online ads for Faith in Action activities.

**Community support and Outreach:** Kathy Campbell-none

**Membership Committee:** Sullivan held two meetings. Tracking of summer & fall newcomers was started, letters written to those who had lapsed, and visits were held with all new members. No interest in membership ceremony by new members. gg is working on congregational covenant and new member ceremony, and new tri-fold for publicity. Currently have 41 new members, 27 have paid on pledge year to date, and 3 pledging friends who have paid on their pledges.

Faith in Action: gg reports they are quite active. Next Bending the Arc event will be In Our Honor. Looking for new venue. PWPL double-booked by mistake. Share the Plate continues.

Finance: gg reports the committee met and got financial reports straightened out with the accountant. She still sees a couple items to be improved in this current report. Started discussing philosophy of money some.

Music: Rockwood: No report. Complimented Barb Michael on the music of late.

Religious exploration: Campbell: Peace camp was "great." RE curricula is planned. Need more children. Only one child this morning in attendance.

Stewardship: Anne Stark: committee in resting phase at moment.

Sunday service: Campbell: The calendar of Sunday services are filled through October. For \$35 a month can get Soul Matters program. Referred back to committee for decision.

### **Business**

1. It was noted that the BOT made a decision this past month via email to approve the request by Sarah Johnson and Michelle Halley to host RATI 10/8/17-10/14/17. This proposal was a change from our original commitment for 12/3 to 12/7 at the request of RATI administrators.

The BOT discussed how to make online decision making and discussion more transparent to the congregation. It was decided to use Google drive to that end. Anne will invite us all to an MUUC google drive, and set the system up with Heidi. The idea is that we will start first with the Board and Heidi using this as a practice run, before inviting the congregation to sign in.

2. The Soup Dinner date is now Dec. 9.
3. Formulate vision for the year: Anne will start the discussion on Google Drive. Each Board member should submit at least one suggestion.
4. Discussion of staff salaries: Anne will research Heidi and Jamie's salary and evaluation history. She will investigate how evaluation process has worked in the past. Concern was expressed that pay raises should be coordinated & budgeted with the pledge drive and fiscal year. Plan for how to proceed will be discussed at Oct. meeting.
5. Church calendar of fun activities:
  - Gary (per Anne) is planning beer tasting for Oct. – no date specified.
  - Jamie is planning an Intergeneration game night in November.
  - October 15 will be a "Catch as Catch" can casual breakfast potluck. Nobody was designated as coordinator...
  - Nov. 19 might just be a bagel breakfast.
  - Discussion was that Dec breakfast might be cancelled due to so many competing activities.
6. Ultimate Board Book Discussion – Anne shared her thoughts on the mission minute, board development for continuity and the importance of regular staff evaluations. She thanked Heidi for encouraging us to reflect on the material.

7. **Next Board Meeting Date:** Oct.22 at 12:30 pm.

**Open forum remarks:**

1. Susy Swanson brought up that we skipped this agenda item! Whoops! She proposes the purchase of a 20 foot aluminum flag pole from the American Flag Company for \$150. It will hold only one flag, but is so much more affordable than the \$2000 2-flag pole. It was felt we could add a second pole at some point, if this first pole works out well. It was suggested the pole be placed such that it not damage our sign should it blow down, meaning 20 feet away. Request was approved.
2. Martin Steindler offered to donate a large cast iron bell from his camp. Dave Rockwood suggested that it might be placed on a stand near our entry way as a means to add interest to the area. He will discuss with an architect who will be taking a look at our sanctuary in the next week or so. The Board accepted the gift with gratitude.

**Closing Reading:** #693 from [Singing the Living Tradition](#).

**Meeting Adjourned:** 2:23 pm

NJS: 9/25/17