

# MqtUU Board of Trustees Meeting

## September 11, 2016

### Minutes

Called to order: 4:30 pm

BoT Attendance: Dea Kowalczyk, Dharmini Robertson, Kathryn Klos, Anne Stark.

Others in Attendance: Heidi Gould, Suzie Swanson, Bill Joswiak

Opening Words: #610

Open Forum: Suzie said she was really thrilled with the new sign project. And glad that the mortgage is paid off so much. The sale of the Wright street property was used to pay down the looming balloon payment.

- I. Approval of August 14 Minutes. Approved with eh
- II. Agenda approved.
- III. Treasurer Report

in August, we paid our annual insurance premium, which is about \$1700. This, plus the fact that pledge payments are slow in August, always produces a drop in total assets for August. in my experience, it is usually an aberrational month for these reasons

Re: new mortgage. We took \$21,000 from Building Fund and paid down mortgage principal. We are refinancing the remaining balance (about \$73,000) with a new mortgage with a five-year balloon at a rate of 5.5% (which is 1% lower than previous mortgage). We have moved the remaining Building Fund money (over \$23,000) to a new account at mBank which will pay .05% more interest than the account we had at the Marquette Credit Union.

Whatever you decide to do with parking lot will be paid from building fund. I estimated an expenditure of about \$3000 when I paid down the mortgage, so that the building fund balance would be at \$20,000, after parking lot work paid for. If you decide to have more done to the parking lot, please consider the impact on the building fund. We have always felt that we needed to keep a balance of around \$20,000 as an emergency fund to pay for any major issues that arise with building.

- IV. RE Coordinator report – Becca stepped down from being RE coordinator. There is an amazing amount of work going on with committees to continue the schedule proposed by Becca. We haven't gotten an enthusiastic response from a potential candidate.
- V. Committee Communication
  - A. Assigned board liaison positions.
  - B. Dharmini asked that we contact our committees and suggest that we encourage our committee chairs to participate in the upcoming retreat and open house. Heidi suggests we split up the list of volunteers and contact people once so there aren't duplicate contacts.
  - C. Finance Committee and stewardship committees don't have a lot going on Sunday services is filled until December, so things are good there.
- VI. Board Covenant of Right Relations – We all signed our own originals and a copy to be laminated to be posted.

VII. Mediation Council – we don't have one right now. All the members have retired from the mediation council or have left. Dharmini suggested that we engage an outside mediation service. Since we are so small, it will be difficult to find mediation council members who are impartial. We should look at revising the By-Laws and specifying a service ahead of time. Marquette Alger Resolution Service, there is Mediation and Training Services for Creative Conflict Resolution are the two providers in Marquette. Dharmini said that because this is in the bylaws, the BOT should bring it to the larger congregation. Waiting until January may not be a good idea. Maybe have call a meeting in October to see if we can get a quorum.

VIII. Beloved Community Weekend Retreat – Should we pay Gregory Rouillard, facilitator, or should we pay him his requested stipend amount of \$1500. Dea and Dharmini are willing to pay for the stipend in order to show proper respect for Gregory. The bylaws say the BOT has to approve specified gifts. There isn't a budgeted line item for this retreat weekend, but gg said we had monies to pay Gregory's plane fare.

As board president and vice president, Dea and Dharmini said they would abstain from voting on accepting their gift. Leaving Kathy and Anne to vote. Kathy and Anne both said they would vote to accept a specified gift. Suzie said she is drawn to congregations that pull together to put on special events. Dharmini will discuss with gg (Treasurer) how to handle paying Gregory with gifts from Dharmini and Dea in a transparent and respectful manner.

### **Beloved Community Weekend Agenda**

Friday 6-8 p.m. Potluck – when we send out individual invitations, we will request that members RSVP to Heidi with what they plan to bring to the pot luck.

Saturday 9-4 Heidi and Dea will arrange a picnic style lunch and continental breakfast

Sunday 1-4 We'll order Pizza if we need to with leftovers from the picnic lunch.

Getting members there will be the responsibility of Anne, Dea and Dharmini. We'll use the same list that we used to do the community conversations. Heidi will send us lists of our third of members with the phone numbers attached so that we can make calls. Kathy will be out of the country and will not be able to make calls.

We will stress the importance of attending an embracing our renaissance, are they coming the whole weekend and if they're attending the potluck and what they will bring.

IX. Autumn Open House

September 21, 5-8 pm – Kathy will coordinate the slide show, Barb has arranged for Kerry and Dylan to provide music. Sarah Johnson will coordinate an RE table. Russ will help with grilling. Anne will bring her gas grill. Dea will bring a potato salad, not dogs and peanut butter scotch bars. Board members will contact committee chairs to ask what they will be bringing.

Heidi will create a form to capture contact info from guests. She'll add how did you hear about us.

Heidi is working on Chocolay Township mailing. Will be done tomorrow. Non-profit bulk mailing rate establishment has been a bit more hassle.

Kathy will find out about RE activities for kids.

- X. Parking lot. It was sealed, but it doesn't look like they did a great job. Sarah Redmond is going to follow up with Jet Black and ask them to properly fill cracks left with big gaps. It remains an open question as to whether we will have further work done depending on how the open house and the Beloved Community go. We have to build up more support from the community before investing in more parking lot enhancements.
- XI. Community Development Committee functions
- a. Nancy Sullivan wrote up a list of actions taken by the committee. Dharmini said we're going to offer Holding Hearts after services starting in October in the OWL room to see if people want to have confidential lay pastoral encounters. We'll see how much the community needs that pastoral care.
  - b. Heidi will make a list of the activities that she takes responsibility for and what the BOT needs to fill in. She also says the Faith Forward materials that gg found at GA would be helpful in reinforcing relationships within the community. Dea said the Faith Forward materials are a significant financial investment. Do we want to put down that much in resources if the congregation doesn't have the commitment to make it work. Faith Forward is also designed for larger congregations. Dea said it sound like too much too soon. Heidi is going through the Faith Forward curriculum to see what questions and topics are covered with Faith Forward. Heidi and Dharmini will meet in October and come up with 3-6 weeks of curriculum for some once-a-month after-service sessions.
  - c. Dea will start BOT forums or after-service sessions to start asking what we do well. We need to narrow our mission statement. Do we need to restructure? Dharmini said we're all so individual that we might have a hard time to envision. Maybe asking what your favorite things to do together might be a more useful question that will lead us into the what we do well question. Dharmini said some feedback she has had from EmmyLou and her father is the societal trend of wanting an instant experience without investing anything extra. It's not just us, it's every non-profit organization.
  - d. Our members are looking for intellectual challenge and spiritual connectedness. At GA, we see other congregations with a good minister that get both from one minister. Improving the quality of the services is an issue, but we also have issues with personal dynamics of people who attend. One inherent characteristic of Unitarians is to pick and choose what they are interested in.

The next time we meet is the Board Retreat, on Saturday, Oct. 1.

The next Board Meeting is October 16

Adjourn at 6:53 p.m.