

Minutes First UU of STL Policy Board Meeting
Monday, November 09, 2020 at 6:30 PM – Via Zoom

Meeting was called to order by President Margaret Weck at 6:32pm

Members: Emily Colton, Sarah Francois, Pamela Geppert, Joel Hickmann, Rosemary Johnston-Lawton, Joel Minor, Gene Rubin, Margaret Weck, Kathy Wilke, Steve Wilke -

Absent:

Staff: Kim Mason, Lynn Hunt

Council Chair: Lisa Cary

Opening Words – Margaret Weck - "The Wellspring of Moral Action" from p.135 of *Sweet Dreams in America: Making Ethics and Spirituality Work* (1998), Dr. Sharon D. Welch

Chalice Lighting - Margaret Weck

Reading of Board Covenant - Rosemary Lawton

Process Observer Identification - Kathy Wilke

Consent Agenda – Moved by Kathy Wilke Seconded by Emily Colton Approved

Minutes of Previous Meeting - (October 12, 2020)

Secretary will review the minutes to correct some ambiguous sections

Report of the Minister, Kim Mason

Report of the Administration and Programming, Lynn Hunt

Report of the Board President, Margaret Weck

Report of the Church Council Chair, Lisa Cary

Engaging the Congregation in Discerning Mission

There was information and discussion about engaging the congregation in discerning mission. The Mission Task Force of the Policy Board held the first congregational conversation about mission on Sun. Oct 18th after services as a moderated discussion in the main Zoom room. The focus of the first conversation was to begin establishing the importance of having a common sense of mission and why the process is more than simply reviewing and editing the current mission statement. The questions considered at this session were, “What is the purpose of a/any religious community (church, synagogue, temple, etc.)” and “Are there any specific differences unique to the purpose of a UU congregation?” A description of the process and rationale was published in the e-news. It is planned for the mission page of the website to get a sub-page where the handouts and notes for these meetings will be kept. The Mission Task Force will be meeting again to plan additional conversations.

There was additional discussion about ways to bring more members into the discussion. Forums and message boards are possibilities. The task force is looking into adding times in addition to right after the service. Different ways to approach our mission. Using pictures to choose visualizations. Lynn Hunt is looking at versions of message boards/forums including those with a members only aspect.

Issues with financial ramifications

A. Report from the Treasurer. A personnel discrepancy was discovered and steps are being taken to correct it.

B. The bid to repair the leak in the preschool room came in at \$31,000.00. Two other plumbing companies are lined up to make proposals and bids. The Facilities Committee continues to look at options.

C. There was discussion about establishing a Staff gift/exigency Fund. There was a show of hands to see if there was interest in looking into how to have money set aside for staff recognition without it becoming a tax burden. The response was favorable. It was suggested that Scott Bolton would be a good resource.

Reports from Board Liaisons

A. Committee on Ministry (Steve Wilke) –

1. Next charge to the Committee on Ministry for 2020-21 (Nov. to Nov.) – Send to the chair, Jeanette Myers. Examine our ministry with an eye toward our membership. How do we get members incorporated into the life of the church and sustain them through time. Gene Rubin moved Steve Wilke seconded. Motion passed

2. Two replacement members will be needed to replace members rotating off.

B. Personnel Committee (Sarah Francois)

There was a report on the status of hiring an Interim RE Director. The RE committee met. Interim director is a six month position.

C. Nominations & Leadership Development Committee (Emily Colton)

1. Policy documents revisited -

2. Potential leadership development opportunity through the UUA

3. Creating our initial Leadership Plan Goal be the initial task of the first leadership development plan.

Updates

COVID Task Force

At the last meeting it was decided to continue to keep the building closed to use by small groups. Given the recent increase in cases and hospitalizations, the group felt it would be premature to re-open. This includes a request from RE to resume in person classes on Sunday mornings. Many schools are resuming face-to-face instruction, so it was thought by RE that we could resume as well. The Task Force felt that, again, the recent increase in cases and the fact that the children have additional potential exposure in their school settings, it remains prudent to keep our mitigation efforts strict. I have been in contact with our rental groups to update them on this decision.

Rosemary Lawton made a motion to endorse the decisions of the COVID Task Force. Emily Colton seconded. Motion carried with two opposed.

Request to consider development of a mental health and recovery ministry

Congress passed into law a mental health emergency phone number.

Request to extend the Black Lives Matter Vigil If weather conditions or COVID conditions worsen, there may be cause to postpone the Saturday vigil.

Check in with Process Observer – All did great. Good input. Kind to each other.

Sarah Francois moved to adjourn. Steve Wilke seconded. Motion passed.

Adjourned at 8:19 PM

Next Board meeting December 14, 2020.

Minutes submitted by Pamela Geppert, Secretary