

Meeting was punctually (!) called to order by President Gene Rubin at 6:32 pm.

Others in attendance:

Members: Steve Wilke, Vice President; Alison Lamothe, Secretary; Kathy Wilke, Treasurer; Susan Lammert, Trustee; Emily Colton, Trustee; Sarah Francois, Trustee; Joel Hickman, Trustee; Mitch Herzog, Trustee; Jason McClure, Trustee. No one was absent.

Staff: Kim Mason, Lynn Hunt

Council Chair: Cathy Rauch

Opening Words, Reading of Board Covenant and Chalice Lighting: Gene Rubin

Process Observer Identification: Kathy Wilke

Welcome to those new to the board: Gene welcomed Alison, Susan, Mitch, and Cathy to the Policy Board.

Consent Agenda – Documents submitted to Board members for review prior to meeting.

Motion to approve: Gene; motion passed.

- a. Minutes of Previous Meetings - (5/10/2021 and 5/16/2021)
- b. Report of the Minister - Kim Mason
- c. Report of the Administration - Lynn Hunt
- d. Report of the Board President – Gene Rubin

Business: The Board approved that Kathy Wire be our delegate to the General Assembly.

Updates

Reports from Board Liaisons:

A. Committee on Ministry (Steve Wilke)

We are planning on returning to in-person services and RE for all members this fall. We will not require attendees to be vaccinated, in part because as a multi-generational congregation, our members under 12 are still ineligible for vaccination. Children returned to in-person, outdoor RE this past Sunday.

Jason remarked that virtual RE has been devastating to our program in terms of attendance, and wondered if we were moving too slowly towards returning to in-person classes and services. The UUA is recommending services and RE remain virtual through fall.

B. Personnel Committee (Sarah Francois) No report

C. Nominations and Leadership Development Committee (Emily Colton) No report

Plumbing (Lynn Hunt)

Maplewood Plumbing will come in early July to replace the pipe that is leaking in the preschool room. Although Ameren identified a grounding issue, it looks like we will not need to do a more expensive re-routing of the leaking pipe. After the pipe is replaced, we will need to re-concrete and replace the flooring. The estimated cost for the plumbing repair is \$1,500.00.

Covid Task Force (Rev. Kim Mason and Lynn Hunt)

The Covid Task Force continues to meet monthly. In addition to the resumption of in-person services and RE mentioned above, we will open our building for small groups and renters in July. We will request the use of face masks within our building and that lists of attendees are kept for contact tracing purposes. The Task Force has acquired a spreadsheet from another congregation in order to monitor area Covid statistics.

Livestream Project (Rev. Kim Mason)

Kim attended a 4-hour session with the Hybrid Ministries Tech Forum on May 13th about our tech needs for live streaming. She has since received a bid for \$20,000 for technical equipment and installation in the sanctuary, and creation of a tech room.

This project elicited a wide-ranging discussion. Mitch wondered if this large investment might discourage in-person attendance. Jason wondered if, once we return to in-person services, demand for a live-streamed option will wane. Gene emphasized that we undertake this project with the goal of increasing church membership. Sarah wondered about the cost of maintaining this system; Kim reassured us that this expenditure is included in the budget submitted this spring. She also provided some details about what our newly equipped sanctuary would look like.

We had \$17,000 available for the project. In addition, we were able to raise \$3,000.00 via the Thank You Margaret Weck Fund, established to acknowledge her leadership during a pandemic year.

In order to further enhance our livestream capabilities and brighten the sanctuary in general, it was recommended that we improve lighting for an additional cost of \$1,800.00. Steve

Smidowicz of the Finance Committee has identified areas of our budget we can tap to cover this additional expense.

Gene moved that we approve the additional funds needed for lighting from our budget. Emily seconded. Motion passed.

One-year goals and pseudo retreat

As Policy Board President, Gene outlined his goals for the coming year.

He described the “**Three pillars of ‘welcomability’**” which are as follows:

1) What skills can we acquire to be more welcoming of others already in our church? He posits that if we can become better at widening our circles within our church,* we can transfer those skills to welcoming members into our church. *We talked a bit about how Breakout Room fellowship during our Zoom services has accomplished this for those who have taken part.

2) How can we make our physical church more welcoming? The installation of our new Play Space is a step in this direction. How can landscaping or signage, for example, further enhance our exterior? On the interior, how can we incorporate artwork, etc. to create a more welcoming space?

3) How can we improve our internet presence?

In addition, Gene would like to improve the Board’s **financial understanding of the church**.

He proposed that our next meeting be a **pseudo retreat**, during which the Policy Board and members of the Church Council will brainstorm ways to achieve these goals.

Ice breaking activity: Gene invited all participants to briefly share their passions and skills with one another.

During this activity, Alison motioned that we record our Zoom meetings to assist her with taking the minutes. It was agreed that executive sessions would not be recorded and that recordings would be stored only briefly. Motion passed.

To-do list prior to next Policy Board meeting:

- Gene will email Kathy Wilke to inform her that she will be our delegate to the UUA GA;
- Gene will launch **Rubin’s Ramblings**, where he will ruminate about his goals for the coming church year, among other topics;
- Lynn will make sure everyone has access to our Google Docs file.

Process observer check-in: We conducted ourselves well.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm

The next Policy Board meeting will be held Monday, June 12 at 6:30 pm via Zoom. Most of this meeting will be a pseudo retreat, as described above. If there is any business to discuss we will do so briefly at the beginning of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Lamothe