

Minutes
Board of Trustees Meeting
Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church
April 21, 2015

Following a fine meal supplied by President Loftin, the meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm. Present were Richard Loftin, Mike Condit, Barbara Crotty, Craig Miller, Beth Hammer, Kris Taylor, Wade Greiner, Tony Collins, the Revs. Becky and Mark Edmiston-Lange, Business Administrator, Karen Van Horn, Director of Religious Education, Katy Carpman and Board secretary, Mary Ann Stanley.

After the chalice lighting, Mark began the meeting with a reading about joy.

Approval of Minutes of March 24, 2015

Following "Joys and Concerns" the March meeting minutes were corrected to reflect that Kris Taylor had been in attendance. Barbara Crotty moved and Mike Condit seconded that the March Board minutes be approved as corrected.

Welcome New Members

Since the March board meeting, Frank and Diana Maciel and their children and Larry Sneiderman have joined the church. The Maciels are very impressed with our emphasis on social justice. Larry, whose wife still has a business in Dallas, has been playing in the EIO.

Consent Reports

The Ministers

The ministers rejoiced in the wonderful things happenings at Emerson. The stewardship party at the Sickles provided an opportunity for real conversation among the folks who were there. Some of them were relatively new and made connections with other members. Thanks to Robin and Janet for being such wonderful hostesses.

Director of Religious Education

Katy Carpman reported good feedback from the youth and parents from Youth Sunday. She emphasized that what the youth of today are interested in is very different from perhaps what we valued in our youth. A group from the Islamic Center in the Bay area are visiting Emerson on Sunday during the Sunday School hour. Summer Sundays are planned for Emerson members to share their hobbies and interests with kids of the appropriate age. Sign up on May 3. Program begins May 31.

She is looking At different Sunday School models. Under consideration is a hybrid where one Sunday a month is a one-room schoolroom/chapel, one Sunday is a social action project, and two Sundays are for traditional graded classes.

Business Administrator

Karen Van Horn gave a very upbeat financial report:

March Operating Account total income and expense figures:

- March 2015 Income \$ 57,968
 - March Expenses 63,291
 - March Deficient (5,323)
 - 2015 YTD Surplus \$ 69,980
- She reported that new members gave \$90

- The one problem now is the air conditioning. Graco is coming out to check all those moving parts in the system.
- The monthly budget includes a monthly budget deficiency; this month the deficit is not as great as budgeted.
- No mailing from the UUA yet.

Committee Liaisons

Outreach: very committed individuals. They are already dreaming of the stars; to leverage the money to do something bigger. An example: the sidewalks that are good some places and absent others. No small projects for them.

- Question about **allotment of money** was answered by the assurance that the money is ready for them to spend: it is on the books and in the bank as it should be. Board has already approved.

New Business

Representative to the TXUUJM

Gavin Mason apologized for having to resign as one of our representatives because of work. It was moved and seconded that Bonnie Homier be selected as his replacement based on her current participation and interest in the work of the task force. Kenny Jones is our second representative.

“Big Dates Calendar”

The staff compiled this calendar of scheduled Emerson events based on past history. Some dates require board approval, although of course some can be changed for certain circumstance. Mike moved and Tony seconded that the calendar be accepted. The motion passed unanimously.

Scheduling authority for KVH

This amendment to the building use statements of the past gives the staff the authority to make all room assignments for meetings, etc within the church walls and underscores that room assignments must be made prior to the time of the meeting. No event is official until placed on the church calendar. Mike Condit moved that we accept the enhancement of the existing building use policy, seconded by Tony Collins. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

The Auction 4/25

- Richard urged everyone to come to the auction.
- The BOT Wine Pull should be a big attraction so please get your bottle in or call Richard if that is not possible.
- Fund-a-Need update: After Jill’s request we have a match up to \$20,000 much like last year.

Membership Letters

Mark and Becky came up with a very good letter that might be better way to bring lapsed members back to church. We need to include one exciting thing that people will be glad to respond to in each letter. How do we help them understand there is a way back to full membership? What motivates people to want full participation? No action by the board is necessary to grant them permission to write “pastoral” letters.

- Discussion about what is and is not money for a “pledge.” Anything can be characterized as a “pledge”? Within limits – only regular contributions to the general fund, not the special collections. By this definition, we go against the constitutional change we made at the last congregational meeting.
- If we have a voting situation where someone who hasn’t made a written commitment to a pledge attends, we should tell them that “we will have to check to see if your membership is in good standing before we can count your vote.” A follow up letter could say that “we have checked our records and find we could not count their vote this time, but we hope that will change in the near future.”
- Richard asked everyone to ask others how they define “membership.” What’s the verbiage?
- We have a voting membership and Emerson is a corporate entity. We are required to have a definition of membership and we have to have a vote at least once a year. We have to obey the law.
- We are missing two members tonight so we will continue this discussion. The Board is asked to do research on “what it means to be a member” with all sources available.

Stewardship -No report

BOT Retreat Follow up

Richard has everything from the BOT Retreat ready to make copies and will before the next meeting.

Additional Business

- Tony asked about an apparent conflict between Clause 10 and Appendix of the Constitution that covers the same thing. Dick thinks that the wording of the Appendix is better. Changes to Clause 5 and Clause 9 plus new Clause 10. Kris wrote a summary that may have been left out when the new material was added. Karen and Kris will look at it on Friday and straighten it out.
- Tony asked about funds for the two the endowment funds. Karen assured the Board that the money was in Schwab where it will live. The fund will be called the Innovative Project Fund, and the funds are already set up. We still must establish the providence of these funds however so some specific information must be attached to the work that will describe the genius and intention exactly.
- The question was asked as to the status of the contribution to Interfaith Ministries campaign. Current Emerson pledges stand at about \$10,000 of the \$25,000 needed, but we will wait until after the auction to make any kind of push.

After the closing reading by Mark, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Stanley
Secretary