

MINUTES
Board of Trustees Meeting
Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church
February 16, 2016

Submitted by: Kenneth Jones (KJ), BOT Secretary

Present: Mike Condit (MC), Linda Condit (LC), Wade Greiner (WG) Ruth Alkons-Wolinsky (RA-W), Mark Andersen (MA), Nancy Lipp (NL), Becky Edmiston-Lange (BE-L), Mark Edmiston-Lange (ME-L), Katy Carpmann (KC), Beth Hammer (BH), Barbara Crotty (BC), and Karen Van Horn (KVH)

Not Present: Craig Miller, Victor Koosh, and Richard Loftin

The meeting was called to order by Mike Condit (MC) at 7:00 pm.

Chalice lighting and reading was by Mark E-L.

President's Report was presented by MC – The goal for new BOT is keep its focus and delegate some of the work that needs to be done. There should be anticipation of problems to avoid any last minute issues in September or October. It was announced that the membership definition issue was approved unanimously by the BOT via email following its last meeting.

Approval of January Board minutes: Several changes were suggested. Remove all references to "Documents Attached" since the reports will not be attached. Change the spelling of "Mark Anderson" to "Mark Andersen." Change EL to E-L. Change the spelling in the first sentence of Numeral V. from "is" to "it". Under Numeral IV correct the 3 functions of church by adding "and Social Action" at the end of the last sentence. Under New Members change the spelling of Kristen to Kirsten Schachter. In the Minister's Report remove the 3 sentences dealing with Water vigil, Under Numeral XIII change "have been" to "will be."

Welcome New Members: Lisa and Martin Estill were presented by BE-L

Consent Reports:

- Ministers – BE-L presented their report. They are preparing for their up-coming sabbatical. They expressed appreciation that Emerson hosted the recent State of Black Lives Convening
- RE Director – KC presented her sabbatical proposal to the BOT. MA moved to approve, WG seconded. It was approved unanimously.
- Business Administrator – KVH presented her report regarding financials. Questions were invited, none were presented.
- Treasurer – LC presented her report to the BOT and reviewed the status of pledges. She discussed the Finance Committee's recommendation to forgive outstanding loans of \$69,758 made from the Endowment Fund to the operating account during the period of 2012 and 2013. Following discussion, LC

asked for a motion to approve forgiveness of these loans -- BH moved to approve, MA seconded, and BOT approved unanimously.

LC then reviewed the Finance Committee's recommendation to forgive the remaining balance of a loan of \$9,976.58 made from the Endowment Fund to the music department for an electronic organ in 2006. Following discussion, NL moved to approve, MA seconded, and BOT approved unanimously.

- Committee Liaisons – BH visited Performing Arts

New Business

- Afterthoughts on the Retreat
Excitements/Concerns/Priority activity – Mike called for the BOT to consider some of the items discussed to determine if any need to be fleshed out with further details at the next meeting.
- RE Visioning on March 5 – KC reported that letters were sent to parents/grandparents, educators, and others that could contribute to the conversation.
- Communication within the Board between meetings – MC reported that e-mail is not usually used for open discussion, but is instead used for informational items. A discussion was held regarding any need for an immediate change in our method of communication. The consensus was to postpone any further decision to a later time.
- Dates for March and May Board meetings –It was recommended to change the March 15th meeting to March 22nd. Mike mentioned that he would be out of town for the May 17 meeting, but that date was not changed at this time.
- The date for a second BOT 2nd-retreat will be included in discussions of the Church Calendar presented in the spring. However, Saturday, September 17th was proposed as a potential date for that retreat.
- Sanctuary Movement – This was explained by KJ. In the ensuing discussion consensus was reached that this is an issue that we should study further. MC and KJ will work together to appoint a President's Task Force to proceed in this study.

Old Business

- Stewardship Update – ME-L explained that sets of progressive letters continue to be sent out, promoting the current positive activities at Emerson and outlining the need for financial support. Some individual visits, will still need to be made. A breakfast stewardship has recently met on this issue. There are also two scheduled Sunday afternoon parties for February 28 and March 20. These parties are oriented towards camaraderie and highlighting Emerson programs, but they tend to help engage people and that should eventually help with stewardship.
- Kilgore Lecture – John McKeen, the Editor of the Houston Chronicle will be approached as speaker. Gabe Gelb will facilitate this.
- Auction: RA-W reported that literature is ready to be sent next week. They are looking to train or familiarize others to take leadership/ownership of the minutia of after this year.
- Fund a Need Update – The theme and publicity will center on "Campus Beautification." Ann May will be the contact person for many of the details.

Closing reading was given by ME-L.

The meeting was adjourned by MC at 8:24.