

Minutes  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church  
January 31, 2017

**Members Present:** Barbara Crotty (BC), Nancy Lipp (NL), Mike Condit (MC), Linda Condit (LC), Kenny Jones (KJ), Ruth Alkons-Wolinsky (RA-W), Mark Andersen (MA), Beth Hammer (BH), Craig Miller (CM), Ben Withers (BW), Jane Zachritz (JZ), Becky Edmiston-Lange (BE-L), Katy Carpmann (KC), and Karen Van Horn (KVH).

Chalice lighting and opening reading (BE-L)

Welcome new Board members: Kenny Jones, Ben Withers, and Jane Zachritz

Approval of November minutes: Approved as amended at December meeting.

Approval of December minutes: Postponed by BH for February meeting

Welcome new congregation members: Elspeth Davis, Dori Wolfe, Fredrick Wolfe, Lorry Wolfe, and Troy Rockett

**Consent reports**

**President**

- BC hoped for progress in engaging the membership and offered special thanks to KC for her work after Mark's death, and announced that the BOT approved a \$2,000.00 bonus for KC. The bonus has been given to her.
- Update on 1/14 meeting – reviewed members to check with regarding their membership status and marked for specific tasks. Due to Kenn Hurto's 2/25 visit, BC proposed moving the BOT retreat. BC moved, RA-W seconded, unanimously approved by the BOT.
- BOT Retreat –KJ will create a Doodle poll for the BOT to pick a date.

**Minister**

- BE-L gave her report on her activities for the month of January, including the Texas Impact Service of Public Witness on 1/10/17 in Austin, TX and her meeting with Kenn Hurto regarding big questions concerning Emerson. Lisa Rockett and Veronica Davis will attend the Black Lives UU meeting in New Orleans.

**RE Director**

- KC will postpone her planned sabbatical for summer 2017, hoping to take study leave this summer, KC will have everything laid out in advance and will be working at home.
- BH asked for the number of registered children – 120.
- Also discussed were the RE needs in terms of the recruiting calls. KC will provide a brief blurb to include in the script. JZ mentioned the spreadsheet of members she is working on and asked Board to send comments about the calls they have made ASAP.
- KC thanked NL and Steven Lipp for their help with the Christmas brunch.

**Business Administrator**

- KVH presented her annual report to the BOT (yearly banking motions below)r –
  - UUA Certification for number of members – 369
  - MA moved and CM seconded, to be reviewed every 6 month, certified once a year. Next January we will re-certify, BOT voted unanimously
  - KVH reviewed 2017 pledge analysis reveals \$535,807.40 to include 229 pledging units, 10 non-member pledging units, 69 non-pledging member units.
  - KVH asked for comments or questions re the December financials.

- BE-L expressed gratitude for all the hard work KVH does each January.
- The following annual banking motions were made by Board Secretary, KJ:
  - The Board of Trustees of Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston, Inc. moved to **remove the following person as signer** on the listed deposits of the corporation  
 Capital One Operating Bank Account 3700400246  
 Capital one Money Market Account 3232849573  
 Charles Schwab Corporate Account 3116-1841  
 Charles Schwab Endowment Account 3116-1838  
**Signer: Richard Loftin, Past President**

RA-W seconded, approved unanimously.

- The Board of Trustees of Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston, Inc. moved to **remove the following person as Officer/Signer** on the following account:  
 Bank of Oklahoma Account No. 71-0168-01-4  
**Signer: Mike Condit, President, elected January 17, 2016**

MA seconded, unanimous approval.

- The Board of Trustees of Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston, Inc. **authorizes the following persons as signers** on the listed deposits of the corporation.

Capital One Operating Account 3700400246  
 Capital One Money Market 3232849573  
 Charles Schwab Corporate Account 3116-1841  
 Charles Schwab Endowment Account 3116-1838  
**Signers: Barbara Crotty, President**  
**Nancy Lipp, Vice President**  
**Mike Condit, Past President**  
**Karen Van Horn, Business Administrator**

CM seconded , unanimous approval.

- The Board of Trustees of Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston, Inc. moved to **add** the following persons as Officers/Signers on the following account:  
 Bank of Oklahoma Account No. 71-0168-01-4  
**Signers: Barbara Crotty, President, elected January 29, 2017**  
**Nancy Lipp, Vice President, elected January 29, 2017**

BW seconded, unanimous approval.

#### **Treasurer**

- LC reported that end of year statements were mailed last week.
- We had pledge contributions in 2016 of almost \$572, 000, about 88% of the budgeted amount.
- Total expenses were almost 87% of the budgeted amount so we ended the year in the black by \$19,000.

#### **New Business**

- Reorganization of committee liaisons to “Board Coordinators”

- NL discussed the reorganization of committee liaisons. A discussion was held in regard to liaison assignments.
- Board Coordinators
  - Worship – CM
  - Membership Coordination & Development – MA
  - Faith Development, BW
  - Social Action, JZ
  - Caring/Community, BH
  - Stewardship/Administration, RA-W
  - ESL – Church Coordination, KJ/NL.
- 2016 budget surplus – what to do with it? BC discussed moving the surplus into 2017 operating account. NL mentioned the part of surplus goes to the UUA to replace missed payments in 2016,

BH moved to leave the 2016 surplus in the operating fund. KJ seconded. Approved unanimously.

- Fund-a-Need suggestions for this year: KJ suggested a 15 passenger van for general church use. BOT members are to check with committees for suggestions.
- Roof replacement: Tony Collins recommended that a roof replacement will be more economically sensible than repair, KVH to get a quote.
- Building security – KC reported that on Christmas Eve someone entered WWH and ate food and then was sick throughout the building. It's suspected that a door was left open. KVH will see that WWH doors get fixed and locks changed.
- UUA/UUSC Declaration of Conscience – BE-L asked for a vote on whether our Board should support it. BH moved to have the BOT formally adopt this declaration. KJ seconded. Unanimous approval.
- Reproductive Justice Congregation Initiative – KJ addressed the Reproductive Justice Congregation initiative of Just Texas, a division of Texas Freedom Network. He said that this should be a congregational decision followed by a congregational discussion. Sonja Miller, director of the initiative will be here on April 23 to address the congregation in the Adult RE hour and a luncheon will follow.
- Kenn Hurto meeting - The consensus is to for the BOT to bring snack/finger foods to carry us through lunch time. Expecting about 75 attendees. BH will create a Sign-Up Genius.

Closing Reading – BE-L

Meeting Adjourned at 9:15

Respectfully submitted,  
Kenny Jones