

**Minutes
Board of Trustees Meeting
Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church
March 22, 2016**

Minutes by Kenneth Jones, BOT Secretary

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

Not Present: Victor Koosh

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

Chalice lighting and reading (Mark)

President's Report was presented by MC – there seems to be good morale in the congregation; the preparations for the ministers' sabbatical has gone well and all bases seem to be covered; MC attended the 50th year celebration at Bay Area UU Church; Announced that Katie Scott is working with Houston Alliance in regard to a dementia project and would report as progress develops (???); Lori Reeder has proposed offering some general computer use classes during the summer.

MC noted that Victor Koosh has resigned from the BOT and will need to be replaced and charged the Nominations Committee to begin this process.

Approve January Board minutes – The minutes of the February meeting were approved.

Welcome New Member: Delara Aubon was introduced to the board

The Interfaith Ministries annual Tapestry Gala will be held on May 5th. There are spaces at the Emerson table; BC was appointed to fill those slots.

Consent Reports:

- Ministers – BE-L presented their report. They will begin their sabbatical next week
- RE Director – KC presented her report
- Business Administrator – KVH presented her report regarding financials. Questions were invited and addressed
- Treasurer – LC presented her report to the BOT as follows:
There are two areas of concern for the financials in February. The first is that income from 2016 pledges lagged significantly from budget (17,638 vs. \$52,917). Secondly, pledges made increased almost \$22,000 to \$522,000 but are still well below the budgeted \$635,000. There is also concern that some of the pledges are not that firm because they are based on the second year of a three-year pledge and have not been

confirmed. At this point 143 member units and 7 friend units have pledged. This still leaves 110 or 45% of member units unpledged.

For these reasons, the Finance Committee is making an urgent request that we ramp up our fund-raising efforts and formalize a Stewardship Committee or Task Force with a new Chair who can commit more time to the function. This will be especially important with Mark and Becky going on sabbatical since Mark has been our main fund-raiser.

The Finance Committee suggests that the Stewardship Committee needs more members and a formal charge as follows:

Members should commit to meet at least monthly, should make a formal pledge of confidentiality of pledge information, and should be approved by the Board.

Charge of committee is to gather sufficient funds to support the activities of the church and to make sure that all members of the church have the opportunity to provide financial support to the church.

- MC addressed Stewardship and the need to formalize discussion and process. MC has asked Larry Heulbig, Richard Loftin, Janet Meninger, Robin Sickles, Nancy Lipp, Clint Harris, and David Ma) to form a task force for this purpose.

A brief discussion was held in regard to the connection between the definition of membership and stewardship.

- Committee Liaisons – WG met with the Adult RE committee, though it was noted that MC is involved in the functioning of the committee.
KJ reported that the BYOT class has been meeting and the participants are enjoying the journey. MA mentioned his writing class will begin in mid-May and the BYOT members are invited to participate. MA to come to the final BYOT meeting in mid-April.
- Outreach Committee working on a project involving the expansion of Medicare/Medicaid
- Investment Committee – it was noted that Wil Irwin retired after 25 years of capable service.
- Membership - Join Emerson Sundays will continue during the ministers' sabbatical. David Roessler has agreed to serve as the Usher Captain.
- The BOT considered a new Welcoming Schedule
- Sanctuary Proposal Discussion – MC and KJ reported that a task force will be formed to consider the proposal.

- The BOT approved the several up-coming “Big” dates.
- The Kilgore Lecture was discussed. Gabe Gelb approached the editor of the Houston Chronicle and it was suggested to contact Lisa Falkenberg as the speaker. Dates and potential topics will be provided as they are finalized.
- Auction – RA-W requested help in contacting several folks for participation.
- The issue of security was discussed. An usher reported a suspicious person at a recent service. Several present expressed concern that we should consider contracting a security “presence” on Sunday. Others suggestions were to provide training to the already available persons including the ushers and AV volunteers. Cost considerations of hiring a police officer or security company were voiced. A task force consisting of MC, CM, MA, KC was formed to further investigate the issue.
- The BOT meeting dates of April 19 and May 17 were approved.
- Closing reading M E-L

Adjournment – meeting adjourned by MC