

Minutes
Board of Trustees Meeting
Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church
November 15, 2016

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

Minutes by KJ

Chalice lighting and reading – by BE-L

President's Report – MC reported that tonight's meeting will focus on the budget and the allocation from the endowment fund. With regard to the ministerial contract, MC reiterated that Larry Huelbig and David May have initiated discussions on this. Kenn Hurto with the Southwest Region of the UUA will join the ministerial meeting via video-conference. The budget for 2017 should be considered a work in progress to be adjusted as income necessitates. As incomes can be variable, the expense side should be the focus. Though a major financial disaster was averted, the church is not completely whole in this regard. We have to be careful in terms of what we plan as we need to avoid coming back next year to announce that once again we have not met our budget.

Approve October Board minutes – Changes – Add BC to members present, MA moved to approve, CM 2nd, BOT approved unanimously.

Welcome New Members – no new members to report.

Consent Reports:

- Minister

BE-L expressed her immense gratitude for the BOT and Staff for support to her and the church. She has been involved with the Faith Leaders Advisory Board to the Americans United for Separation of Church and State. She expressed the need to take care of the church's pastoral needs and to be a prophetic voice for our values. She expressed her view that we should keep the budget amount for ministry the same to consider bringing in an associate or interim to handle the ministerial needs.

MC mentioned that the bringing in an additional minister would be a congregational decision. In addition, such a move will require time and careful consideration.

KJ applauded BE-L call to greater engagement with promoting our values in the community.

- RE Director – KC reported on the stress of the last few months. She highlighted many of the points provided in her written report.
- Business Administrator – KVH reviewed the major items in her report.

- Treasurer – no formal report other than she has been in consultation with KVH regarding pledge income.
- Committee Liaisons – ESL – BH and BC met with Carol Trout. Furniture and staff concerns seem to have been resolved..
- MA advised that communications committee reported that many times folks are here with no one to answer questions about the church. Some mechanism/facility to have a kiosk (or other) will be taken up at the staff level.

Executive Session was called by MC. KVH, BE-L, and KC left the meeting to consider budget items presented the proposal from Tony Collins, Chair of the Finance Committee.

Regular Session was resumed and MC reported to the staff the adjustments approved for staff salary with will be reflected in the budget presented to the congregation for consideration.

New Business

- Report from the Nominating Committee – LC provided the board with the list of nominations for positions for the coming year. Board Vice President BC, advised that NL would serve as Board Vice President for 2017.
- 2017 Budget – Tony Collins will provide a budget that accounts for the staff revisions considered in executive session.
- 2017 Distribution from Endowment Fund – MC discussed a recommendation from the Investment Committee that recommended that the board consider a 3% allocation to be divided between the Outreach Committee and the Maintenance fund. MC further advised that the Outreach Committee would be able to meet its commitments with this allocation. A motion was made to approve the 3% allocation by CM. A discussion was held. The motion was seconded by BH, the board voted 8 for with 1 against and the motion was approved.
- Stewardship Update – NL reported that letters have sent to those that have made multi-year pledges to confirm those pledges for 2017 and beyond. Calls will be made to those that do not respond.
- KVH presented the current guidelines for presentation of items to the BOT for consideration. A discussion was held. BH agreed to draft amendments and or additions to the guidelines and present to the board for additional consideration and discussion.
- Additional New Business - KJ requested approval to spend \$250.00 for a non-refundable deposit to secure a tour bus for the February 15th TXUJLM Lobby Day in Austin, TX.

Closing reading – BE-L

Next BOT Meeting – December 20, 2016

Adjournment