

**Board of Trustees Meeting
Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church
January 19, 2016
Minutes – By Kenneth Jones**

Present: Mike Condit, Linda Condit, Wade Greiner, Ruth Alkons-Wolinsky, Mark Andersen, Richard Loftin, Becky Edmiston-Lange, Mark Edmiston-Lange, Katy Carpman, Beth Hammer, Craig Miller, Karen Van Horn, Barbara Crotty, Nancy Lipp, Kenneth Jones

Not Present: Victor Koosh

I. Call to Order/ Chalice Lighting and Opening Reading

A. Meeting called to order by Mike Condit, 7:00 pm

B. Chalice lighting and reading (Becky)

II. Welcome New Board Members/Secretary by Mike Condit

A. New BOT Members - Ruth Alkons-Wolinsky, Mark Andersen, and Nancy Lipp were warmly welcomed by the BOT

B. New Secretary - Kenneth Jones was warmly welcomed by the BOT

III. Agenda Addition by Mike Condit – A gift to Richard Loftin. Richard was presented with a gift and received formal thanks for his service as President in 2015.

IV. President's Report by Mike Condit – Mike communicated his desire to present various communications received over a month in a President's Report. He outlined his view of the role of the BOT President in balancing competing priorities and desires for the church. In particular, financial concerns are seen as the most immediate priority. Mike charged the BOT to be a deliberative body that will need to face and make some difficult decisions. The view is that the 3 functions of the church are Worship, Education, and Social Action.

V. December 2015 Board Minutes –In regard to the December minutes it was noted that Kris Taylor was the Second on the Open Carry Motion of the December meeting. Motion to adopt by was made by Beth and seconded by Mark. The motion was unanimously approved.

VI. New Members were presented by Becky EL

Gerry Shawa, Kirsten Schachter, David Schwager, and Allison Schwager were introduced to the BOT

VII. Consent Reports

A. Ministers – Mark E-L reported that December 2015 was marked by opportunities for festive celebrations and by many requests for EUU's participation in community events. Mark E-L noted that the ratio of visitors becoming members is improving. The Congregation's tenor seems to be pleasing to visitors.

B. RE Director – Katy C commented on the Souper Bowl of Caring and referenced other items in the RE Director's report.

C. Business Administrator – Karen Van Horn presented her report and introduced beginning of the year motions regarding the changing of signers on the bank accounts.

1. Motions

Motion 1 – to remove Past President Kris Taylor as signer on the Capital One and Charles Schwab accounts. Motion to Approve by Craig, 2nd by Beth – Approved unanimously

Motion 2 – to authorize Michael Condit, Barbara Crotty, Richard Loftin, and Karen Van Horn as signers on the Capital One and Charles Schwab accounts. Motion to Approve by Beth, 2nd by Craig, Approved unanimously

Motion 3 – to Approve a Corporate Resolution to Remove Richard Loftin as signer on the Bank of Oklahoma account. Motion to Approve by Craig, 2nd by Beth, Approved unanimously

Motion 4 – to Approve a Corporate Resolution to add/or change title Michael Condit and Barbara Crotty as Officer/signer on the Bank of Oklahoma account. Motion to Approve by Beth, 2nd by Craig, Approved unanimously

All Motions were presented and signed by Board Secretary Kenneth Jones

2. Membership Certification for UUA purposes needs to be issued in February at 391, Motion to Approve by Craig, 2nd by Mark A. Approved unanimously.

[A subsequent addendum by Karen Van Horn dated 1/22/16 via e-mail to the BOT adjusted this number to 412]

All other items discussed are contained in the Business Administrator's report.

2. Pledge Income - They reviewed pledge income for 2015, which is behind by \$16,578. She said that we are likely to get some income in 2016 for pledges that were not paid in 2015.

3. Pledge/Budget Gap - Linda noted that they looked at pledges to date for 2016. So far, 135 pledging units have pledged \$490,723. Emerson's budgeted pledge amount for 2016 is \$635,000. There is a need to close this gap with work on stewardship.

VIII. Board – Internal Operations - Mike

A. Committee Liaisons – Mike

1. Meetings attended by Liaison – Beth attended Coordinating Council for Social Action, Craig reported that the Groppe Scholarship group will be meeting soon.

2. Liaisons for Committees, BOT members were asked to look at the committee assignments to make suggestions as to what liaison assignments that are preferred. This list will be forthcoming and sent to the BOT

B. BOT Contact - Attendees were asked to provide contact information and all present complied. This list is attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

C. BOT Dinners were discussed and a list of dates and sign-up sheet was distributed; dietary considerations were discussed. This list is attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

D. Board Schedule for Welcoming New members was discussed and a sign-up sheet was distributed and collected.

IX. Board Retreat - Mike

A. Logistics - Saturday, February 6, 2016 – 8:30 am to 12:00 pm in Westwood Hall

B. Functions of Retreat – rejuvenate and to develop an operational plan.

C. Proposed items/questions: What we are as a BOT? What can we do better? The retreat should not be overly detail-driven. Broad blue-sky ideas are welcome, but also some definite action items will be addressed. Mike asked for ideas for retreat items from the BOT members.

D. Big idea items: Where is EUU in the grand scheme of things? How are we presenting EUU to the World?

E. Examples/Ideas

1. Structural Consideration - The retreat might consider a re-thinking and/or re-formulating the notion of “Committee” in the context of an overall re-vision of church structure and operation.

2. Focus - The notion that the retreat would not focus on money or membership was well received.

3. New Initiatives Support - Katy mentioned that new initiatives need to be supported with a nuts/bolts and institutional framework in order to realize a new idea. This might be re-visited at the retreat.

X. Emerson Auction – Ruth Alkons-Wolinsky will again be the chair of this year's auction. Ideas regarding a Fund-a-Need project were discussed.

XI. Kilgore Lecture – Mike presented Gabe Gelb's proposals for a lecture speaker – John McKeon, the publisher of the Houston Chronicle on a potential topic of journalism today and its role in moral issues. Craig mentioned John Tomaszewski on the subject of Digital Privacy and that he would agree to provide the lecture for free.. It was decided to ask Gabe as to whether he had already made any overtures made Mr. Keon prior to considering Mr. Tomaszewski further.

XII. Stewardship – Mark E-L has been spearheading the effort – the question is how to handle this effort during the minister's upcoming sabbatical. Mark presented the BOT an update and overview of the pledge process including the need for small gatherings to discuss budget needs and plans to make up budget shortfalls.

XIII. Update on Ministers' plans for Sabbatical – Becky E-L provided an overview of the worship calendar and the dates for the sabbatical and a review of the sabbatical that the BOT has approved. The lay pastoral team has been enlarged and any emergency pastoral care needs have been addressed through staff and reciprocal agreements with the area UU ministers.

XIV. Membership – Barbara Crotty presented the question of a membership definition by providing previously discussed definitions of membership. Nancy asked for clarification of the need to have membership language connected to financial commitment. In response, Becky E-L explained that the connecting of the two didn't achieve the goal of increased giving. The BOT decided to separate out the concept of membership and stewardship. Prior e-mail discussions on the topic were discussed.

The Membership statement will be presented to the BOT for consideration by e-mail to be finally adopted as an operating BOT policy to be presented to the congregation at a later date.

XV. Closing and Adjournment – Closing Reading by Becky E-L, the meeting was adjourned by Mike at 9:10 pm.