

Minutes  
Board of Trustees  
Emerson UU Church  
October 20, 2015

President Richard Loftin called the meeting of the Emerson UU Church Board of Trustees to order at 7 pm. Present for the meeting were:

- |                             |                            |                 |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| * Shannon Butler            | * Rev. Mark Edmiston-Lange |                 |
| * Katy Carpmann             | * Wade Greiner             | * Kris Taylor   |
| * Tony Collins              | * Beth Hammer              | * Karen VanHorn |
| * Mike Condit               | * Victor Koosh             |                 |
| * Barbara Crotty            | * Richard Loftin           |                 |
| * Rev. Becky Edmiston-Lange | * Craig Miller             |                 |

A reading by Rev. Mark followed the lighting of the Chalice.

**Approval of August and September Board Minutes** – Approving the August and September minutes was tabled till November, in order to inform the Secretary of requested changes and for the changes to be made. Beth Hammer will revise the August and September minutes.

General consensus the minutes can be shortened, and do not have to contain much dialog.

### Consent Reports

**Ministers ' Report-** The Board happily welcomed the news of 7 new members to the Emerson Family – Norma Atherton, Michele Corron, Cathy Johnson, Lydia and James (Jim) Kelly, and Dominique and Olga Sosa-Nelson.

In addition to their written report, the ministers commented as follows. The Staff retreat was very meaningful and productive. The fall party was a great success. Becky and the current lay pastoral ministry team have started training for the new team members. The Under 40 group continues to develop.

**Director of Religious Education** - The UNICEF carnival will be held on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>. Katy will be attending the LREDA meeting the weekend of Oct. 24. Katy has started to plan her summer 2017 sabbatical. She plans on researching and exploring Family Ministry; how to support both a family and the individuals as they grow their faith.

**Business Administrator** - Repairs have been completed to the roof and floor in the Sanctuary. Initial roofing repairs caused the floor damage, near the piano.

Barbara Crotty made a motion for the request for a Capital One Credit Card for \$1500 for Adrian Rodriguez, Wade Greiner seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The monthly report will include an updated pledge status. In terms of projections, the pledge line is low, but with the expected post-paid pledges, all should be fine.

Page 9– line item 5650 (maintenance and repair) is over budget, due to replacing electricity poles and repairing the air conditioner system. The pole replacement is a long-term cost (first replacement in 30 years). It is recommended that \$5,000 be taken out of the reserve fund cover the poles. Let the record show that the board is in agreement with the recommendation from building and grounds, for the above poles being paid for out of the endowment reserve fund.

**Treasurer** - No formal report. Focusing on pledging and budget.

**Committee Liaisons** - Reports will be filed electronically, unless there is something important.

The Ushers report that Adult ED attendees have been arriving late to the sanctuary. Indications are the classes are ending on time, about 10:50 am, but conversations afterwards are impeding movement to the Sanctuary. Consensus is it is a problem without a real solution.

Membership reports that they are in need of a new skirt for welcoming table. Cynthia Miller has agreed to make and embellish the new skirt.

### **New Business**

Kenny Jones has requested use of the campus for the Freedom Bound Summit scheduled for February 12-13, 2016. The summit is an organizing project for part of Black Lives Matter.

Let it be known that the Board is willing to provide the use of the Emerson Campus, and custodial costs for the Freedom Bound Summit, and that Richard will help work out details with Kenny about parking and security.

**2016 Budget Discussion**-Historically the budget has been balanced on flat paychecks. This is addressed with the three-year budget, as it focuses on increasing compensation to fair wages. With a successful stewardship campaign (average pledge increase of 4%) this is feasible. The three-year budget helps bring our finances into alignment with our UU values. Board acknowledges that this will require some blunt conversations, and members will need to be given specific information.

Karen Van Horn will activate the existing Young Adult line item, with a \$1000 budget -following the approval of the 2016 budget, for use by the new “Under 40” group.

The Board acknowledged the need for an Active Stewardship campaign.

**Membership definition** - Barbara Crotty has agreed to wordsmith the definition for the Nov. Board meeting. Concerns and notes with this issue include: under what circumstances does someone stop being a member, how does someone terminate their membership, is/should there be a difference between a voting/active member and inactive member, how do we define the privileges of membership and the responsibilities of membership. The definition of membership should include being committed to the purposes of Unitarian Universalism and the church, as well as committing to certain obligations of membership (participation, time, talent, etc). The advice of an attorney shall be sought to make sure the definition complies with state law.

### **Old Business**

The Church's priorities for TXUUJM have been determined.

Notification of Sabbatical – Mike – letter about Sabbatical time. Working on how things will be covered.

Update from AV Committee - Installation of the new AV system is set to start – Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>, and should take 1 week..

Stewardship/Pledge Campaign – Stewardship/pledge letters have been sent out. Building on work from last year.

-Mark – Board members doing the welcome is going well. Think it is nice, go on and continue it.

A sweet moment – Alex De Greiner with the choir, sang a solo.

Closing reading - Rev. Mark

Meeting adjourned