

BUC Board of Trustees

Board of Trustees Minutes for February 17, 2014

Present: Lisa Demian, Dave Graham, John Hammer, Bruce Webber, Kathy Hurt, Marilyn Mast, Eric Sargent

Absent: Ian Arnold, Marilyn Kelly, Dick Cantley, Barbara Woolf

Guests: none

Call to Order

Centering: “We Are Running”, poem by Lucille Clifton

30 second check-in

Recitation of Board covenant:

Listen to each other with respect

Support each other’s leadership

Speak honestly for mutual understanding

Respect confidentiality of the Board and Minister

Consent Agenda

1. **Minutes** from January approved – Dave/Bruce
2. **New Member Potluck March 1** – Pam McAlpin, event planner, urges Board attendance, so we can take part in ceremonial “pinning” of new members. She will send us an e-mail to which we can respond with our ability to take part
3. **Summer Schedule to begin in May 18** – Since that will be a single service Sunday in honor of the Annual Meeting (with the change in fiscal year), this seems a logical time to make the shift.

Monthly Reports

1. **Treasurer’s Report** – Dick Cantley e-mailed his report, with detailed statements to follow soon, also via e-mail. Our budgeted deficit for 2013 shrank from \$122,000 to \$22,000 (!!). While very pleased with this turn of events, we hope to be able to project more accurately for 2014. The budget for 2014 is balanced. If we are apt to have more income/lower expenses, we would

have money to, for instance, pay denominational dues. The official budget for 2014 will be sent soon, from Kim or Dick.

2. **Senior Minister Report** – Kathy’s written report, as e-mailed, reflects developments in areas of worship, service, learning and fellowship. In addition, Kathy has been following up with two efforts: calling the 73 folks who are listed, currently, as members, but who did not make a new pledge. This would mean they are no longer members. Reasons for these folks “falling away” range from their children aging out of the RE program, to not having made a personal connection within the congregation. As to the latter, Kathy is working to energize the small group fellowship program
3. **Monitoring: Executive Limitation #7 – Communication and Support to the Board** As part of the Board’s cyclical responsibility to monitor Executive performance, we assess each one of the Executive Limitation policies. The executive is meeting all the criteria in this area, but still working on the new one of gathering and reviewing all committee charters. Two more of these to go. Kathy will forward to the Board when all are in hand.

Generative/Reflective: What is there to be said about the aesthetics of the BUC buildings? A related question might be: when there are aesthetic decisions to be made, who makes them? Detailed discussion followed. Dave outlined thoughts on the topic he and John Hammer had shared last year regarding standards around such decisions:

- JUSTICE – reconfigurable space that includes visitors and social justice activities
- ACCEPTANCE/SPIRITUAL GROWTH – separate spaces for the social and the spiritual; space safe for kids; proud but don’t worry about it.
- WORTH & DIGNITY – no memorials; adhere to ADA

John agreed to draft a charter for a Design Review Committee. It would include a method to solicit congregational input on large design decisions, and might include an annual design presentation to the congregation.

Board Business

1. **Campus Development and Prioritization Committee** – Dick e-mailed a written report of this group’s work. Included were guiding principles:

- Does the space support our UU principles (see above thoughts)
 - Is the space multifunctional?
 - Will the space generate growth and income
2. **Congregational Survey** –Lisa has expressed concern to Dick that if a congregational survey suggested by Marilyn Kelly is to take place, that it happen very soon. Lisa will talk with Marilyn K. about making this happen. Kathy will ask Eleanor McGuire to put Marilyn K. and Sandy Spencer (survey expert) together and both will work with Dick, as the CDPC liaison. Lisa reminds that four Sunday morning services in April are to include information/thoughts to help the congregation imagine what is being proposed. This would be preparation for the Annual Meeting vote May 18.
 3. **Elections** – It seems not to be a good idea to end any Board terms June 30, 2014. Lisa will draft a response to a letter some Board members received from LDC co-chair Ben Gabel. Kathy will present the response when she meets with him this week.
 4. **General Assembly delegation** – Lisa would like to see us have one, and is planning to attend herself. There is no budget to help with delegate expenses. GA will be June 25–29 in Providence, RI. Registration is believed to be \$350, plus travel expenses, hotel and meals. Board members are encouraged to attend, and urge others from BUC to do so too.
 5. **Invitation to tour i3Detroit in Ferndale** – Board member Bruce Webber, a member of the group, offers a tour on a Saturday to interested Board members. This organization offers space to creative makers, which Bruce has found inspirational and feels other might find it so too. Let Bruce know if you are interested
 6. **Volunteer of the Month** – Keith Brown
 7. **Other** – There seems to be great interest in the congregation about the CDPC report/presentation. The Program Council is wondering if the congregation says no to the capital campaign, does that mean everything stops? Discussion seemed to indicate that if that happened, the Board would re-examine the proposals and perhaps resubmit. It was suggested that Board members again make phone calls prior to the meeting to encourage congregational attendance. Details to follow closer to May 18

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm (Dave/John)