

**First Unitarian Church of Chicago  
Minutes of March 15, 2018 Board Meeting**

**Trustees Present:**

Joan Pederson	President
Jim Proctor (by telephone)	Vice President
Christine Harrell	
Margot Horn	
John Martin-Eatinger	

**Also Present:**

Rev. Teri Schwartz	Senior Co-Minister
Rev. David Schwartz	Senior Co-Minister
Thom Thomas	Student Minister
Beth Moss	Religious Educator
Julie Larson	Secretary
Evan Freund	Chair, Social Justice Council
Richard Pardo	Chair, Property Committee

Joan called the meeting to order at 7:00. Beth offered opening words, followed by check-in by all present

Board meeting agenda started at 7:20.

**1. Vacancy Recommendations**

- To replace Dennis Koehn on the Ministerial Review Committee: John Martin-Eatinger, with a second person TBD
- To replace Christine Harrell as an alternate to the Board until the end of the term in June: Kent Richmond
- To replace Beverly Bennett on the Board, TBD

**2. Religious Education**

Beth reviewed the monthly RE report.

The motion to accept by Margot, seconded by John, was unanimously approved.

**2A. RE Anchor Teacher Proposal:** Hire four (4) teachers as paid positions for 32 Sundays during the 2018–19 church year, 2.5 hour per Sunday (1 prep, 1.5 at church), \$15/hour. The total proposed expense \$4,800.

Comments:

Margot: is this financially feasible?

John: full support for proposal

Jim: full support for proposal, this is something we can do

Joan: pilot program for a year, perhaps a single donation of the \$4800 to cover the expense.

Richard: full support, and also a reason to increase pledge amount, so needs to be brought up during pledge conversations

David and Teri: this will free up Beth's time for more things

Joan: this will help keep Beth in her position

Thom: this will eliminate the inevitability of the wrong person in the classroom alone (i.e. background check matter)

Joan: the board must increase the commitment to increase pledges to make the RE hires happen

The motion to accept by Christine, seconded by Jim, was unanimously approved.

### **3. Social Justice Council Report**

Evan Freund reviewed at length a summary of activities, community renewal, criminal justice, police oversight, and the criminal justice campaign. Congregational matters were presented in depth. Two proposals were offered:

Proposal A. Establishing a context for disagreement and a way for reconciliation.

Proposal B. Asking Jim Proctor to be a representative at CAUUC.

Discussion of proposal A led to agreement that the report be taken under advisement, that issues it raised be addressed with the congregation this spring, and that representatives of the Board, the Social Justice Council, and the ministry team work together to plan that event.

Jim Proctor declined to serve on the board of the Chicago Area Unitarian Universalist Council (CAUUC).

Break: 8:27-8:33

### **4. Capital Campaign Prioritization**

Richard Pardo discussed prioritizing improvements from votes from the congregation. He distributed four sets of documents:

- Prospective capital campaign projects with updated costs and an appendix identifying large items not already included and current estimates of their costs
- Plan views showing locations of proposed projects
- Property Committee's updated capital projects list and list of major maintenance items
- Elevation and plan views of visionary proposals

Highlights:

Replace power panel. Not up to code, emergency panel not working. Switching panels that exist are for the non-working generator. The generator is not required per law because of numbers of people, but it should be done anyway.

Not part of the congregational vote:

Accessibility improvements need to happen, pathway between sanctuary and Pennington, door modifications to code, chair lift.

The goals are reachable with \$1,500,000 capital campaign. Option of using some Fenn House proceeds invested in this.

What's not covered:

Pennington roof, sanctuary chairs, signage, tuck pointing beyond the east wall, interior cleaning, plus items listed on the supplied list.

The church needs to set up a reserve fund for anticipation of repairs like roofs, heating etc.

Teri pointed out that the Parish House renovation eliminates the nursery so the Pennington center will need to have a renovation to include a nursery (approx. \$10,000)

The discussion that followed included these issues:

- Combining the two ideas for elevators, one serving Pennington Center, the other the basement? Worth looking into. Recall the many different levels that our buildings have and the implications for using elevators to address accessibility
- Board can make decisions in the overall context of possible renovations, not just phase 1: not just speculation, but visioning.
- How acknowledge donors? Naming rooms and other features for them? Plaques? Other ways? Can be an effective stimulus to giving.
- Board decisions are needed in a month on the first two pages listing prospective projects and their costs: what should phase 1 include?
- Prospective budget for phase 1: Will the Board recommend to the congregation that it include funds from the sale of Fenn House?
- Some of the accessibility issues identified during the Visioning Retreat as vital are not listed, particularly sound and hearing system for Chris Moore Parlor and perhaps VOV. Richard will seek costs.
- How long until the Pennington roof needs to be repaired? 3–5 years.
- Thanks expressed to Richard. Plans made for making these decisions within the month.

## 5. Consent Agenda

Joan introduced two proposed bylaw amendments. One would extend the period when the Annual Meeting may be held from two to six weeks. The other would simplify the article on councils, committees, etc. by deleting obsolete content and by moving the particulars about individual councils, but not the section on councils in general, to the Policy Manual.

Joan reviewed the **Financial Report**, noting additions that allow easier review of how the church is adhering to the budget

David: The Little People Learning Center space use payments have not begun yet, but will not be out of line with budget.

**Ministers' Report:** Teri reviewed the report, highlighting the hiring of Myles Brady Davis as Membership Coordinator. David expects that for the first two months Myles will be getting acclimated. He will be involved in new member meetings, speaking with individuals and groups. Teri highlighted the "Connections" section, reaching out into the community.

**Student Minister's Report:** Thom will be in class at Meadville Lombard all week. He will email his report.

Joan handed out the notes from the March 9<sup>th</sup> Gathering.

Joan offered closing words

Meeting ended 9:45 p.m.