

**First Unitarian Church of Chicago
Minutes of December 15, 2016 Board Meeting**

Trustees Present:

Joan Pederson	President
Jim Proctor	Vice President
Kris Barker	
Dennis Koehn	
Margot Horn	
Christine Harrell	
Beverly Bennett	

Also Present:

Joanne Michalski	Treasurer
Julie Larson	Secretary
Rev. David Schwartz	Senior Co-Minister
Rev. Teri Schwartz	Senior Co-Minister

Joan called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Christine offered opening words; Joan lit the chalice. Check-in by those present followed from 7:10 to 7:20 pm.

1. Leadership Development

Dennis Koehn discussed the review of the Membership Survey, and outlined the highlights of the data compiled. Comments on the survey were made by Beverly, Margot, Joanne, Jim and Joan.

2. Covenant

Jim Proctor outlined the action plan for making the Covenant more prominent and visible, and was meeting with the creators of the full covenant posters later in the week after the board meeting.

3. Capital Campaign

The Kirsch report on capital needs and the Pratapas introduction to the capital campaign have been scheduled for presentation to the full congregation on January 15 and 22 after church.

4. Pledge Drive

Colleen Grogan and Margie Gonwa are heading the pledge drive. The pledge circles worked well last year and will be continued this year, but for a softer approach, considering changing the name to the Conversation Circle. Discussion on whether the circle will actually bring up pledging, or more of an informal gathering. The circles need to be more transparent on how money is spent.

5. Auction

Discussion of changes to the auction was moved to the February meeting.

6. Belonging Committee

Margot reported that the first meeting had 20 people, and the 3rd Sunday Brunch had 6 participants. The brunch was a success and will be repeated.

Break 8:10-8:16

7. Social Justice Committee

Discussion of proposed changes to the mission statement was moved to the February meeting.

8. Gift Acceptance Policy and Bequests

Introduced changes – board to review the two policies now to possibly merge and offer input over the next month to be discussed in February. At the moment there are contradictory statements which need to be corrected.

9. December Minutes

Dennis moved and Beverly seconded the approval of the amended minutes.

10. Treasurer's Report

The financial report for the first half of the fiscal year, through December 2016, shows a decent cash balance, endowment growth from recent market gains, and both income and expense about as expected. Needed: good auction revenue, sustained pledge payments. Uncertain: winter weather and the related size of the fuel bills.

Jim moved and Beverly seconded approving the Treasurer's Report. It was noted that Joanne is stepping down from the Treasurer's position in June and will be difficult to replace.

11. Pennington Center

There is a roof leak that needs to be addressed immediately. The Property Committee estimates that it can be patched successfully for now by volunteers, at insignificant cost.

12. RE Program

Karen was unable to attend the board meeting but submitted a comprehensive report on the program's active schedule and its finances, which remain within budget. Beverly moved and Margot seconded approval of the report.

13. Ministers' Report

Mike Knowles has begun negotiations with Little People Learning Center for a longer rental agreement, which will benefit both parties.

(Executive session from 8:49-9:04: discussion only)

Christine offered the closing words. Joan adjourned the meeting at 9:05.