

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Wilmington, North Carolina
Board of Trustees (BOT) Meeting Minutes, October 24, 2023**

Attending: Robert Demko, Kathy Gillcrist, Jane Horrell, Jeannie Lennon, Dennis McCulley, Gary O'Connell, Jimmy Reeves, Michael Sheridan, Fran Strauss

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Gary at 5:15, Reverend Kathy provided a reading.

Reports:

The Executive Report, Treasurer's report, Religious Education report as well August and September's minutes were unanimously accepted as submitted.

Discussion ensued regarding Reverend Kathy's report, in particular the Religious Education program. Perhaps the force change in staff will allow an opportunity. The congregation has expressed desire to grow the program. What will that look like?

Additionally Reverend Kathy would like to redevelop the Music Committee. Given that Andrew Hirst (Choirmaster) provides services for one service a month, there is a need to establish a committee to fill in the other weeks of the month. Reverend Kathy will populate the committee and come back to the Board with their Mission Statement.

Lastly, there's the matter of finances. At this point, the congregation has very little cushion. Reverend Kathy recommends a strategy to address this. Particularly important during the ministerial search, it will be important for a candidate to see we're planning and/or taking action.

Housekeeping:

Board is responsible for providing a worship associate, one per month. The Board is also obligated to host one Board-led service each year. The follow calendar was agreed upon:

November	Michael
December	Fran
January	Jeannie
February	Dennis
March	Kathy G.
April	Robert with Jimmy
May	Board-led service (all)
June	Jane

The Board's next meetings are November 28 (Executive meeting Nov 21) and December 19 (Executive meeting Dec 12).

Interior:

Dennis reported that there were three bids submitted that were reasonable. Dennis will work on scheduling the chosen vendor to proceed with the installation. Things will need to be moved/cleared out prior to installation.

Jeannie found a storage unit for Dobkin hall, approved by the Interior Committee, and promptly purchased it. Additional storage opportunities were found by adding a shelf to an existing closet.

Dennis will speak with the Interior Committee regarding obtaining plaques to honor and thank the estates of Don Smith and Jeryl Peebles who donated generously and enabled the congregation to procure AV equipment (Don Smith) and TV monitors (Jeryl Peebles). These generous contributions should be recognized and properly honored.

Communications- shared drive update:

Jimmy has been working on this project and gave an update that approximately half of the committees are utilizing the shared drive. He's been making efforts to use committee emails, not personal emails. The committee email can then route to a specific (personal) email, but the primary mode of communication should be via the group's email.

Social Justice Pilgrimage (November):

Michale reported that 29 out of towners are expected, coming to various portions of the events. 21 people are expected to attend service and our shared meal (November 12). An additional bus tour will be added as the 1st tour's registration is filled. Congregants will need to register for the service and shared meal. Reverend Kathy will send an all-congregation email with information, including details on parking.

Fund Raising:

Fran reported the proceeds from the sale of note cards was \$642. The Board voted unanimously for Fran and Jeannie to pick out four of the cards to make holiday-themed packs of 8 cards for sale. The cards could be sold within the congregation, but it was also suggested they could be sold at an upcoming craft event, congregant Stacy K would be the person to reach out to about this.

Barbara Williams' two ice cream socials successfully raised funds for the church.

Per the budget, there's a need for \$12,000 more in fund-raising.

Kathy G again brought up a murder mystery event, likely a dessert event, perhaps offer wine (for a donation). She's spoken with Jerry W and Thea H previously and they'd express interest in offering their support and/or assistance. Jeannie, Dennis and Fran offered work with Kathy on this project. Looking for dates in January. Thus, a Fundraising Committee was formed. Subcommittees can be created. Jane offered to craft something for the weekly Digest about joining the Fundraising Committee.

An auction has been a successful fundraiser in the past. Reverent Kathy suggested utilizing software to make the process easier. Jeannie noted there needs to be an in-person component as not everyone is comfortable with an online process. A bloodymary bar was suggested for those who attend an in-person event.

Gary shared an idea that congregant Richard M had suggested, in which cards \$0-\$100 were available for a meal and congregants were able to pick which card/amount was appropriate for them. Proceeds from the dinner were given to the church.

RE Director:

Reverend Kathy reminded the Board that there's not much growth in the number of children attending on Sunday's, but the congregation is eager to grow the program. With that in mind, what do we envision staff in this position handling? Reverend Kathy has seen other congregations' RE program adding adult programming, serving as a congregational representative at community events and heading

up community partnership events. A lengthy conversation ensued. Gary, Robert and Jane, with the assistance and leadership of Reverend Kathy, agreed to be on the newly-formed RE Committee. The committee will need other participants as well. Reverend Kathy will start conversations on this subject, and review the size and scope of the position for the Board's November meeting.

Committees:

Item 9 of the agenda is about committees. The Music Committee, Fund Raising Committee and RE Committee were already addressed previously in the meeting.

Safety Committee. Gary is looking at safety policies, but feels a policy alone will disappear into a manual. Bearing in mind that safety has many components- such as disruptive people, building safety, tornado safety. Michael offered insight about grant opportunities offered through UU Justice NC. She's already completed some initial paperwork. Additionally, she shared Blueprint NC has extensive social justice safety training available.

Reverend Kathy suggested two people for this committee to tap into the opportunities, and review policy and procedures yearly. Michael and Jimmy agreed to be this committee.

Statement on Hamas terrorist attack on Israel:

Gary shared his dismay, and that of others, that UUA didn't issue a stronger statement. Michael attended a UUA Justice event October 20 that had applicable resources on this topic, and perhaps a narrative that could be used as a model. In particular, a focus on human suffering, not politics. Michael will share this information via email to the Board to craft an appropriate statement.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:32pm