

MINUTES OF NOV. 16, 2023 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
TRUSTEES OF THE UU FELLOWSHIP OF BOCA RATON

Present: Co-presidents Judy Keiser and Carole Stephens, vice president/facilities Patrick Larson, treasurer Bill Jensen, secretary Lynn Smith; trustees Barbara Messick, Sandy Troiano, Paul Libert, Claire Smith; interim minister Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey; guests Patricia Rogers, John Tilton, Betty Tilton, Jim Smith, Marina Machado, Mitch Major, Rick Troiano.

Call to order: After a leadership development session, Carole called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m. and Carole chaired it. Lynn did opening words with a quotation from Thomas Merton; Bill lighted the chalice.

BOT check-in: Judy led the check-in, after which Carole noted that there was a quorum and introduced our new music director Marina, whose birthday it was. Patricia was asked to be the process observer for the meeting.

Marina said she contacted two companies to assess the condition of our piano's hammers and said both agreed that replacing them was not needed at this time, but that the piano would be tuned for the holiday services. Marina said she was working with the choir to choose and rehearse the music for those services. She said she also was updating the list of choir members. Bill said \$600 would be available to cover expenses for the holiday services and said he would meet with Marina to discuss that. No Board action was required. Board members wished her a happy birthday.

Approval of the minutes: After a motion by Paul seconded by Barbara, the minutes of the last Board meeting were approved.

Trustees project reports: Claire said her Mission and Visioning group sent out 10 invitations and had gotten four yeses and two maybes and would connect with the others. She said she is planning to have a Zoom meeting with the nominees in December and hopes to form a committee of six or seven. Judy discussed ministerial search and said she has gotten clarity on talking points and a timeline, and will reach out to people on a short list so we can revise our congregational profile by Jan. 1. She said she expects to have a 5-member search committee. Judy also said that since our bylaws provide for a personnel committee, she intends to try to re-form one. Lynn reported that the stewardship team had identified three candidates for possible service on the Stewardship Committee and asked them to talk to Rev. Kathy about what the job entails. Lynn said the team hopes for a fast start-up in December and suggested that Board members pre-pledge and announce a total of Board pledges before the drive begins.

Treasurers report: Bill said we are still under budget for the year to date but some big expenses are coming in this month. He said an issue came up about re-setting our brokerage account with Charles Schwab so we can accept stock gifts. After a motion by Paul seconded by Sandy, the re-setting was approved with Patrick, Carole and Paul being the authorized persons to use it.

Facilities report: Patrick had one action item in his VP/Facilities report. He and Bill identified three possible locations for installation of the closet to contain our fire alarm system to comply with city rules. He said his first choice is the southeast corner of the Hartley-Brown Room currently rented to the Zen group. He said that since our buildings were built before 1993, a variance is needed from the Boca Raton City Fire Dept to build the closet. Patrick and Patricia expressed frustration over not being able to get a response from the department's inspector on the matter despite leaving several phone messages. Patricia said the process for getting an approval of our project is this: the fire department inspector must make a recommendation to the city planning department, which then has to recommend approval to the planning commission, and then the proposal would have to be approved by the city council.

Patrick said he would work with the Tiltens to see if the Zen group, a long-time Sharex partner, wouldn't mind having the closet built in their room. After a motion by Paul seconded by Bill, the Board voted to authorize Patrick to use his best judgement to take actions necessary to meet the Fire Dept's requirements of where to install the closet to contain the fire alarm system. Patrick said the equipment for the project has been delivered and the only holdup is getting city approval for our plans. He estimated that \$27,000 has been spent of the \$30,000 budgeted in the capital campaign for the project.

Sharex report: After a break, the Tiltens gave their Sharex report. They said a new Alcoholics Anonymous group brought to six the number of our AA renters. The Tiltens forwarded their draft budget for 2024-25. They said they have six other mainstay groups and have had five events — including three large events and two piano recitals. Those latter events generated \$2,600 in rental income for us. Betty said she and John met with the executive team to discuss our evolving safety and security plans. She also said they met with Officer Jenny about safety and security and with a detective about procedure in the event of an active shooter incident. Judy said plans are in the works to conduct a fire drill during a Sunday worship service.

Old business: There was a discussion of votes taken outside the normal Board meetings. Such a vote was taken on the issue of hiring a new cleaning service. After a motion by Paul seconded by Sandy, the Board approved that decision.

Carole suggested that we discuss in January the hiring of a sexton in addition to the cleaning service to assist with cleaning.

The IT team's proposed website policy, which was posted for a month, did not result in any objections and thus becomes part of our Policies and Procedures. After a motion by Paul seconded by Barbara there was discussion on the issue. Carole said some minor changes are being made to our website in consultation with the IT team and the Membership Committee's new coordinator, but she said the changes do not affect the policy. Judy suggested the issue could be tabled until the matter is clarified. Paul agreed and rescinded his motion, seconded by Carole, and a Board vote approved the rescission.

Jim spoke about the UUA's proposed revision of our Principles and Purposes and said, "it seems what we have now is what we're going to get." He said in order to further amend the document, a

congregation would have to approve an amendment and get 14 other congregations to approve that recommendation. It would then require a 3/4 vote at the 2024 General Assembly for insertion into the document. Jim said he is ready to do a program on the issue and asked Rev. Kathy and Judy when to do it.

Paul then described the UUA proposal as “anti-Semitic” and asked for a Board vote opposing it on that basis. Rev. Kathy said it would make more sense to put it on the agenda of our next Board meeting. Jim mentioned that 86.3 percent of GA delegates approved the language of the current proposal. Paul then asked that a discussion be on the agenda for the December Board meeting. Judy said the issue should be part of a congregational discussion and not an issue the Board should vote on. Paul said he preferred that Jim not lead any educational sessions because he is biased. Jim said he would not lead to any future discussions and quoted an activist as saying, “this is not an oppression Olympics” in which one group of oppressed people is placed above another, and that UUs are against ALL forms of oppression. The issue was tabled for further discussion.

New Business: Bill said discussions were taking place on the issue of getting a church credit card and also that Rev. Kathy would like us to look at our bylaws policy on gifts and requests (page 8, article 6, section 1.) He asked that these matters be placed on the agenda for our December or January meetings.

After a motion to adjourn by Judy seconded by Sandy, the Board voted to adjourn at 9:21pm. There was a check out by all members.

The next BOT meeting: Wednesday, December 20th at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Smith