

UUFBR Board Meeting May 23, 2024

Minutes

Gathering:

Chalice Lighting /Opening Words (Lynn), Check-in (Howard), Vibe-checker (Barbara), Time-minder (Bill)

7:15 Present: Carole Stephens presiding, Bill Jensen Treasurer, Patrick Larson VP/Facilities, Judy Keiser Secretary, Trustees Lynn Smith, Howard Prentice, and Rick Troiano, Rev Kathy Interim Minister.

Call to order by Carole Stephens; Determination of Quorum; Welcome to guests (Barbara Messick, Mitch Major, Patricia Rogers, Emil Kessler, Betty and John Tilton, Ron Roth).

1. 7:16 Approval of Minutes of previous meetings: minutes of April 25 BOT meeting approved as submitted. Minutes of congregational minutes tabled, to be resubmitted at next meeting.
2. Reports:
 - a. Co-presidents' report: (Rajeev will submit after meeting)
 - b. Minister's Report
 - c. Administrative Reports/Action items:
 - i. Treasurer-report previously submitted; no questions or action items. Bill added note that a w\$2600 dividend was received from insurance.
 - ii. Finance Committee: Carole asked about when end of year report will be ready. Patricia said it will be ready within the week. Bill added one item: Bill will submit proposed changes (approved by Finance Committee) to policies regarding credit and debit cards or online banking.
 - iii. VP-Facilities-no action items. Question about chalice candle fire hazard, and whether this is properly a Board action, as a safety issue. Discussion of issues and possible solutions. Temporarily, Worship team can take responsibility for moving the candle between Sunday services, or Patrick can ask for volunteers. Carole moved to table discussion til next meeting at which point we will make a decision regarding type of candle to use going forward. Seconded by Patrick. Motion passed.
 - iv. Sharex-no action items or questions.
 - v. Endowment resubmitted quarterly report, though not needed for May
 - d. Program Committees and Groups/Action items: IT and Membership committee reports came in. No action items. Carole noted Membership committee's summer will focus on policies, not member recruitment.
3. Old Business:
 - a. Program Planning Council: program team leaders (not administrative Board report committees) will have an initial meeting Th 5/30 2-330, and Sat 6/1 1-2:30.
 - b. Contract minister search: Rajeev previously submitted written report. No update from the recent meeting with a potential contract minister. Rajeev, as Board liaison, will report to the Board.
4. Minister's Report: Rev Kathy reported on email correspondence received from Jim Smith. Discussion of best practices in responding to communications from Fellowship members, and the need for compassion and kindness, with the goal of creating a culture where pain is not ignored or minimized, and opposing perspectives do not obscure the worth and dignity of our members.
5. Breath Break

6. New Business:

a. Delegates to General Assembly:

- i. Discussion of narrow margin of congregational vote, reflecting a pattern of splits in congregation over critical issues. Discussion of our historical congregational process, including avoidance of conflictual differences, and ways to bring it into a relational paradigm that reflects trust and communal understanding. Discussion of strategies to effect change: continuing conversations, examining appropriateness of corporate processes (votes, abstention as a tool), learning to stop when confronted with conflict, the impact of covenant in a pluralistic congregationalist faith.
- ii. Delegate selection: The copresidents cannot attend, two people have volunteered, the Board will appoint from those who volunteer and register for GA before GA starts. Discussion of fees to register, benefits of GA, need to re-start Denominational Connections Committee.

- b. Debriefing from congregational meeting: Discussion of processes that were followed (need to examine proxy processes) and atmosphere of lack of trust and respect. Need to continue healing and renewal work. Rev Kathy noted pattern of relying on petitions and votes rather than conversation and attempt at consensus. If we don't learn, we'll repeat the pattern. She urged us to focus on this task and let other transitional work take a back seat to coming back into right relationship. Discussion of elements of right relationship and importance of "staying at the table."

7. 9:10 Meeting was adjourned.

Date for next meeting: June 27, 2024

Administrative Reports:

1. Minister's Report
2. Treasurer
3. Finance Committee
4. Facilities
5. Sharex
6. Endowment (Quarterly in Oct, Jan, **Apr**, July)
7. Operating Expense and Capital Improvement Funds (quarterly in October January April **July**)

Program Committee/Groups Reports

8. IT Team
9. Membership
10. Landscaping
11. Community Services
12. Personnel
13. Aesthetics Team
14. Legacy Group
15. Space Planning Group
16. Healing Justice