

MINUTES OF JAN. 25, 2024 UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP OF BOCA RATON BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Present: Co-presidents Judy Keiser and Sandy Troiano, VP/facilities Patrick Larson, secretary Lynn Smith, trustees Paul Libert, Carole Stephens, Barbara Messick, Claire Smith, interim minister Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey, guests Rick Troiano, Howard Prentice, Rajeev Arora, Bob Schneider, Danielle Smith, Jennifer Ligeti, Mitch Major, Patricia Rogers, Betty Tilton, John Tilton, Jim Smith.

Absent: treasurer Bill Jensen.

Sandy called **the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.** after a leadership training session on stewardship/giving.

Chalice Lighting/Opening Words: Judy lit the chalice and read words from Aurora Levins Morales; there was a brief check-in.

After a motion by Paul seconded by Patrick, and a change asked for by Sandy, **the minutes of the previous Board meeting were approved.**

Special Projects Reports: Jennifer mentioned proposed changes to the home page of our website, and Rajeev shared his screen with it and spoke about it. They said there was a lot more activity on the site in the past month. Rajeev mentioned that the Unitarian Universalist Association has a demo site that the Membership and Outreach team looked at and discussed with the IT team. Rajeev said it's a big project to change the underlying architecture of the site but that they want to take elements of the demo site and add them to our website, including more photos. Rajeev said his team would like the BOT to consider the work as a good first step before more changes are made. He said the team had not offered the job to anyone since a candidate decided not to take the position, but had interviewed another candidate on Jan. 24. **After a motion by Paul seconded by Barbara the Board voted to approve the proposed website changes as presented.**

Endowment Committee: Patricia said the committee's proposed amendments to its bylaws are contained in her written report, which she briefly discussed. Mitch discussed investment strategy and investing in low-cost funds of funds, and he discussed the reasoning behind each of the recommended changes.

Patricia suggested that a special meeting to discuss the proposed changes be scheduled. Carole suggested splitting the proposed changes between those pertaining to operations and those pertaining to governance. There was discussion about not allowing the Cleary Fund to go below the total of the donated amount to the fund.

Rev. Kathy suggested that putting investment guidelines in bylaws is a bad idea because in 10 years our strategy might be different. She added that she feels that the current Endowment Fund should have been set up as a foundation, and would have put it outside the congregation; she said the Endowment either should be placed outside the congregation and have nothing to do with the BOT or that the BOT should set up a system of oversight. Paul said our bylaws do provide for oversight as they require the Endowment Committee to issue quarterly reports to the BOT.

There was more discussion about what our policy should be if the congregation was in financial trouble. Judy suggested that a special meeting be held to discuss the proposed Endowment changes. **After a motion by Paul seconded by Carole, the proposed changes were tabled** to give the BOT time to study them and hold a special joint meeting with the Endowment Committee to discuss them further.

Minister's Report: Rev. Kathy submitted a written report and said there were no action items. She announced that our former congregant and administrator Gail Larkin had died; we shared a moment of silence for her. Judy then asked for a moment of silence for former member Aaron Venable who also passed away this week.

VP/Facilities Report: Patrick said he had only one action item and that it was a discussion of how to make a two-hour film from the Boca Raton Police Department available to members. He said the IT team could share it or upload it to our website. Patrick said he would prefer the latter and that it ties in with us forming a safety and security team. Lynn suggested that greeters, ushers and the Membership Committee might be the first to watch it. Carole said she only wants the film available to our members and not outsiders. Sandy suggested that the IT team could share the film with the Membership Committee first. There seemed to be agreement that that was a good way to start the process.

Mission & Vision Team: Claire said her group has started meeting to train the facilitators but there were no action items.

Ministerial Search Team: Howard said our revised 22-page congregational profile has been submitted to the UUA Transitions Office and will be edited by the Southern Regional Office. Barbara has joined the team and said she reviewed the document.

Worship Committee: Judy said the committee has "a bunch of dedicated people" and invited BOT members with questions to attend meetings.

Stewardship Team: Board liaison Lynn reported that the team is meeting weekly and is encouraged that 30 pledges totaling roughly \$60,000 are in, and that the committee's style is gentle persuasion, not spreading fear. This current year's pledge total for 90 units averaged \$1,850. Paul said and many large pledgers have not committed yet.

Sandy made a proposal and asked for agreement that each trustee invite 10-12 people in their area to a "cottage meeting" at their homes or the church to discuss their thoughts on stewardship and pledging, and about the direction of the congregation. Barbara said she would host a meeting. Sandy said she would ask Ruth Amisial to create lists of attendees based on Zip codes and suggested that each trustee contact Ruth and organize a meeting. Lynn volunteered to help Sandy hold meetings off-site.

Sharex: John said rental income is going well and Betty said there are two possible new renters: a Weight Watchers group and another Alcoholics' Anonymous group. Rev. Kathy pointed out that Weight Watchers might be a for-profit entity and if it is, it would not be eligible to be our tenant. John and Betty said they would check this out. Paul pointed out that our Sharex budget last year was \$66,000 and this year's budgeted total is \$32,000 without the now-departed Silec Family group.

The Legacy Group provided a written report, the **Membership Committee** had no action items, the **Space Use group** had no report and **Healing Justice** had no report outside of a

mention of Jim's 4-part Saturday "Freedom School" racial justice series, which Carole said she was enjoying.

Sandy said the BOT received a petition from Paul and a group of congregants and that educational meetings on issues mentioned in it will be held next month.

After a motion by Sandy seconded by Barbara, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. There was a brief check-out.

Respectively submitted by Lynn Smith, secretary, UU Fellowship of Boca Raton.