

**First Unitarian Church of Chicago  
Minutes of August 16, 2018 Board Meeting**

**Trustees Present:**

Betty Holcomb	President
Christine Harrell	Vice President
Julia Elizabeth Harris	Treasurer
Ellen Larue	
Joe Harrington	
Beverly Bennett	
John Martin-Eatinger	

**Also Present:**

Rev. Teri Schwartz	Senior Co-Minister
Rev. David Schwartz	Senior Co-Minister
Julie Larson	Temporary Secretary

**Absent:**

Amos Biggers  
Kristen Faust

Betty called the meeting to order at 7:17, offering opening words. Christine lit the chalice

Each Trustee offered a motto for the group.

John: So let it be written so let it be done

Ellen: Better is good

Betty: Be the change you want to see

Teri: Progress not perfection

Joe: The right of conscious is in the democratic process

David: Don't let everything you can't do keep you from something that you can

Christine: Don't just come to me with a problem, come with a solution too

Beverly: Be calm, be hopeful

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**1. Minutes of September Meeting**

With four corrections being noted, the motion to accept by John, seconded by Joe was unanimously approved.

**2. Introduction of New Treasurer**

Julia Elizabeth Harris (Liz) introduced herself and offered a brief background.

### 3. RE Report

With the absence of Beth, the highlights of the report were given by Teri.

Highlights include:

- Anchor teacher program going well
- Greek myths going really well in upper elementary (4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Coming of age: half the students are from other churches, which makes for a stronger cohort. Beth has done some great work approaching other UU churches
- A rock climbing outing had been planned
- Time for all ages see sheet
- There will be a Mitten Tree rather than a Christmas pageant this December

The motion to accept by John, seconded by Joe was unanimously approved.

### 4. Financial Report

Betty has been made aware that the pledges need to half collected by October, which hasn't happened. There is the possibility of not making payroll.

Discussion:

Teri: Because of the blending of the Capital campaign and the pledge campaign, there has been a lag in the commitments to the pledge campaign. The church right now does not have the pledges that are necessary to pass the budget in November.

Beverly: Can we speak about it in church during the service? Answer, Teri: it's not feasible, has been in the bulletin every week.

Betty: We need to have people called to get the pledge commitments. we are 40% behind on commitments.

Joe: Needs to be linked with the capital campaign.

Ellen: Need to send out a notice to let people of their current pledge standing, and ask that they fulfill their pledge.

Liz: Pledges need to be submitted by end of the physical year, it could be accelerated to get in before end of year for tax purposes. 20-30 people down from last year's commitments, not that many need to be called.

Betty: A board member needs to be the person calling. Betty will connect with the CC heads to work out the details for who needs to be called and who is doing the calling.

David: We have past scripts that will facilitate.

Teri: Might work well to have a lead from both the CC and the board.

Christine: In the past, having those calling be able to pick who they are going to contact will lead to a more productive outcome.

Those phoning need to get the cards and submit to the office. It can be done electronically too, or follow-up with Mike Knowles to see if the card has been turned in.

Additional signer on the Money market: Mike Knowles asked that Joe Harrington be the backup signer.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

The church needs to set up a finance committee, organize a meeting with Marie (acct), so books for the last fiscal year can be closed. Liz will be producing reports for both the CC and budget each month.

The motion to accept by Joe, seconded by Beverly was unanimously approved.

8:12-8:17 Break

## **6. Ministers' Report**

Teri reviewed the handout. Including welcome to Liz. Parish House Advisory Team and the CC leadership team meet bi-weekly to make sure that things are feasible in order and scope.

David on Congregational Life: Myles will be at the next monthly board meeting to discuss his role and current tasks and accomplishments. David discussed what led up to the hiring of Myles. After six months of learning, he has decided to set up a new committee with people who haven't been on the committee before. They take care of the back of the church: greeting, follow-up, etc. This will involve replacing existing people who have done it for years, and offer fresh faces.

Discussion:

Beverly: Takes issue with asking Bobbi to step aside, that she has earned her place.

Betty: When one person does one job, they become the face of the church. Bobbi is no longer on the membership committee.

Joe: Bobbi should be publicly acknowledged for her 10 years of commitment.

David: That is going to happen. Miles and the new team need to set their own path to welcome people to the church and engage them.

Christine: There needs to be recognition, but the process needs to be geared toward Bobbi.

Pluralism: David discussed ongoing problems with teachings that directly conflict with the UU tenant that welcomes a diversity of beliefs.

Discussion:

John: I don't agree with the lessons that are taught. That there is only one way to think and everything else is wrong. Should be a disclaimer on all printed materials that state that the teachings are not endorsed by the UU church.

Betty: Should the board have a policy of all classes have a syllabus submitted prior to the class?

Christine: There needs to be adult religious education committee that was voted on at the annual meeting.

Ellen: The kids in RE is the only ones that monitored. Needs to be pursued to get curriculum prior to class. Even though there has been pushback.

Joe: There needs to be a disclaimer read prior to any class that is not consistent with the values of the church.

Betty: There has been discussion that any class not taught by an official person, that a disclaimer needs to be read that this class may not be approved by the UU teachings.

David: We have to be intolerant to intolerance, that it can't be taught in the UU church that there is only one way and all other beliefs are wrong.

Teri: Any disclaimer is really only being discussed because of Finley, this is not an issue with anyone else, so a disclaimer is really moot.

Motion: Due previous actions Finley no longer has approval to teach classes at UU.

The motion to accept by Beverly, seconded by Joe was unanimously approved.

Motion: Classes taught at First U must have written submission to the board for approval.

The motion to accept by Beverly, seconded by Joe. One trustee opposed, board approved.

Motion that the "Nature of Racism" Class is suspended as of 10/18/2018. Submission of class curriculum must be submitted to the board, with reinstatement pending board approval of class curriculum.

The motion to accept by Beverly, seconded by Joe was unanimously approved.

Executive session .9:17-9:21

Meeting continued 9:22

Continuation of Ministers' report about Sabbatical and best practices: Minister Jason Lydon has agreed to fill during sabbatical, pending board approval.

Discussion:

Beverly: are there other people available?

David: Yes, but he is by far the most qualified.

Motion for sabbatical dates March through August

The motion to accept by Joe, seconded by Beverly was unanimously approved.

Motion for Jason to be appointed as interim minister is tabled until November so he can become familiar to the congregation and committee.

Thank you to Joe for helping David navigate the city council meeting Motion made to accept the Ministers' Report:

The motion to accept by Christine, seconded by Joe was unanimously approved.

Betty gave closing words, meeting ended 9:36 p.m.