

**First Unitarian Church of Chicago  
Minutes of April 20, 2017 Board Meeting**

**Trustees Present:**

Joan Pederson, President  
Jim Proctor, Vice President  
Beverly Bennett  
Kris Barker

Margot Horn  
Dennis Koehn  
Kent Richmond  
Christine Harrell, Alternate

**Also Present:**

Rev. David Schwartz, Senior Co-Minister  
Rev. Teri Schwartz, Senior Co-Minister  
Julie Larson, Secretary  
Anita Orlikoff, Chair, Social Justice Council

**Unable to Attend:**

Joanne Michalski, Treasurer

Jim opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. Beverly Bennett read opening words. Check-in by those present followed from 7:10 to 7:30 pm. Joan called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

**1. Review of Social Justice Council Policies**

Anita Orlikoff represented the Social Justice Council.

Highlights of the discussion follow. Statements are opinions of people present, not positions adopted by the board.

- Separating policy from procedure needs to be clear in the SJC mission statement: policy to be approved by the board, procedure by SJC.
- Special collections must be approved by Senior Minister or Board prior to the collection.  
*[Motion pending]*
- Taking of Positions: Still under consideration
- Sponsor and co-sponsor language has to be adjusted to reflect more accurately how First Unitarian Church is involved
- There has to be a more transparent distinction between the intentions of the overall congregation and the intentions of the subcommittees of the congregation
- How is someone unfamiliar to this church to understand whether the church as a whole has sponsored an event or taken a position?

Teri posited there isn't really any way to help the public distinguish between the church overall and a council or one of its task forces in such situations.

Jim asked that there be language to distinguish the church from the SJC regarding any legal ramifications of SJC actions.

- When is waiting for the board's approval not appropriate/necessary? Time pressures may require that some decisions and actions be taken before the board has time to meet.
- Anita responded to the issues raised to that point. Issues regarding the taking of positions need to be addressed by the SJC, which is not presently adopting such positions.
- Sponsoring/cosponsoring: Needs to be more oversight by SJC, not the church board.
- Dennis requested an account of what events have been done in the past year. Anita and Joan provided a quick recap.
- Kris suggested that a board member attend the SJC board meetings on a rotating basis. Anita agreed that that is a positive suggestion and encourages it.
- Anita commented on sponsoring/cosponsoring events: There is oversight of the task forces by the SJC board. Language needs to be added that no task force can act autonomously and needs to present action plans to and get approval from SJC board.
- To keep the church board in the loop on what the SJC is planning, Anita will forward the monthly minutes.
- Anita will work on the language with the SJC to make it more to the point, leaner. Joan and Dennis will meet to provide guidance to Anita before the next SJC meeting.
- Aim: Policies and Procedures document revised by the SJC that the board can approve in June.

## **2. RE Council Report**

David presented the highlights of the RE report. Currently 82% of the RE budget is allocated to nursery care, making the core RE program seem better funded than it is. Interviews are being held for the Director position. Jim moved and Beverly and Margot seconded to accept the report. The motion passed without objection.

### **Break 8:25-8:35**

## **3. Little People Learning Center Contract**

The new lease has a built-in rate increase every year by 2%, with a three year commitment. Little People will be responsible for cleaning their own space. Agreement structures their use of the space. What are they responsible for: anything within the structural walls.

The new structure changes how the church approaches cleaning of the building. It might not use a cleaning service to the degree that it has now.

#### **4. Financial Matters: Pledge Drive, Auction, Give Away the Basket**

Pledge update and budget implications:

- Just 60% of congregation has pledged, meeting 80% of the budget's pledge target. There needs to be a coordinated effort by the board that each member personally calls 3-4 people who are active members that have not yet pledged for FY18.
- A \$25,000 challenge grant has been offered by an anonymous donor to stimulate additional pledging and help fully fund the proposed budget.

Auction May 6: Each Board members is responsible for getting five donations to be auctioned off, whether donated by themselves or solicited from businesses, organizations, and/or other individuals. Donation forms and a solicitation letter were provided to everyone present. Kris described an effective procedure for soliciting donations from businesses.

The Give Away the Plate program has the nominating process in motion.

#### **5. UU General Assembly Delegates' Votes and Election**

- Delegates to UUA general assembly will have an outline of how to vote as opposed to being on their own.
- The nominations will be voted on at the annual meeting.

#### **6. Ministers' Report**

David presented the highlights of the Minister's Report.

Closing words at 9:36 by Beverly. The meeting was adjourned immediately afterward.