

## **UUYO Board of Trustees Meeting: 2/7/2017**

Meeting was called to order at 6:05.

Present: Anita Wesler, Louisa Berger, Linda Mohn, Tom Beck, Rev. Matt Alspaugh, Molly Toth, and Andy Crabb (by conference call)

Absent: Ralph Malmer and Sarah Lowry

Facilitator: Andy Crabb

Process Observer: Tom Beck

Time Keeper: Linda Mohn

Thank UUs: Anita Wesler

Bits from the Board: Molly Toth

Minutes: Molly Toth

### **Review New Process Observer Role, Read Draft Covenant, and Check-In**

The role of the Process Observer has shifted to include providing feedback as necessary during the meeting, instead of reporting out at the meeting's close. The Process Observer should comment when necessary to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate in the meeting.

The draft Board Covenant was read.

### **Consent Agenda**

**Treasurer's Report:** Louisa provided a revised report. The line item for "Social Justice" has been removed. Visiting Minister Samuel Prince chose to donate his honorarium to UUJO. Documentation for tax exemption for the parking lot has been sent in.

**Discussion:** The Warren UU Fellowship dissolved and donated the remaining \$18,000 in their operating fund to UUYO, restriction-free. The Board discussed how to make the congregation aware of the gift, and what it might be used for. Andy moved to amend the January Treasurer's Report to reflect the \$18,000 as an off-budget line item to be used for unspecified capital improvements or 125th Anniversary expenditures. Tom seconded. All presented voted in favor.

**Minister's Report:** Attendance has been up by about 20-25 people per week in recent months. It was agreed that Sunday, February 5th's service with visiting minister Chris Long and the luncheon and discussion in Islam was a great example of how our church can connect with the wider community, and of how we grow into a programmatic church. Efforts to encourage new member development are coming from Karen Lapidus, who is hosting a Newcomer Involvement Team meeting on February 12.

Andy moved to approve the consent agenda reports. Linda seconded. All voted in favor.

**Share the Plate:** March's Share the Plate will be used to provide some matching support to UUYO's delegate (Jim Rogers) to the UUA General Assembly in New Orleans. April's STP will support YWCA Youngstown's transitional housing program.

**Fundraising Initiatives:** As discussed at the retreat in January, May 19 and 20 have been reserved for the collectibles sale. Two weeks in September and October have been blocked out

for the auction and the 125th anniversary celebration. A Valentine's Day basket raffle is underway.

**125th Anniversary:** Gerard stepped back from working on this project after leaving the Board. Molly and Andy will work on assembling a committee. Louisa and Linda have begun researching branded memorabilia for the anniversary. Rodef Shalom has their 150th anniversary in May; we may want to consider reaching out to them to collaborate in some way.

**Stewardship for 2017:** Our goal is to get an early start on stewardship this year, beginning as early as September. A stewardship and growth conference ("Money, Membership, and Shared Ministry") is being held at UU Akron on May 6th. A team from UUYO should attend, and hopefully a Stewardship Team will coalesce as a result and meet over the summer to prep for the coming stewardship season. Matt is encouraging participation in the region's Growth and Vitality Program series.

**Thank UUs:** It was decided that we will do Thank UUs for Ellen (for planning February 5th lunch), Clayton (for sharpening knives in the kitchen), Eugenia (for her help on February 5th), BeckyAnn (for her work in scheduling the Muslim speakers panel on February 5th), and Allison Locketti and Scott Baker (for their help at the youth lock-in).

### **New Business**

**Board Officer positions** were decided upon. They are:

President: Andy Crabb

Secretary: Sarah Lowry

Treasurer: Louisa Berger.

Tom moved to accept the slate. Linda seconded. All voted in favor.

**Board Covenant:** Tom provided the Board with a draft covenant to be read at the opening of each meeting of the Board of Trustees. After a brief discussion, Louisa motioned to approve the covenant and adopt it as written. Anita seconded. All voted in favor.

**GA Scholarship:** Matt raised the point that we will be sending Jim Rogers to General Assembly this year as our delegate. He may be eligible for a scholarship through the UUA if the congregation can provide some form of matching support. After some conversation, Andy motioned that UUYO will find ways to support attendees to GA who qualify for scholarships (based on congregational support, delegate status, marginalized identity, and financial need) through the UUA. One such way will be using March's Share the Plate for this purpose. Molly seconded. All voted in favor.

**Stewardship for 2016:** Louisa noted that we have 57 pledging units in. Pledging is up 9.35% from the previous year. Some pledges are still outstanding, and will add an additional \$5,000 (approximate) to our pledging total for 2016's stewardship campaign.

Initially, it appeared we have a \$22,000 shortfall this year on our budgeted goal of \$117,000. However, the shortfall is closer to \$10-12,000 because regular giving by folks who do not pledge (which are not the same as pledges and are not loose plate) were counted as pledges in the original count. Last year, we had \$105,000 in pledges.

**Generative Discussion:** At our retreat, we did a visioning experience we were asked to envision what a successful year would look like. Our thoughts included:

Capital improvement underway...

1. A successful kickoff of a capital campaign with a signature component completed (i.e., cupola/steeple)
  - cupola/steeple done
  - patio underway
  - exterior underway
  - interior repairs
  - landscaping
2. Keeping the organization operating...
  - Stewardship successfully completed by 12/15
  - Having an established, operational Finance Committee
  - Monitoring policies and procedures for effectiveness
3. Pursuing the mission...
  - worked on messaging, Beacon of Liberal Religious Philosophy in the Mahoning Valley
  - doing well with growth, following up on increased visits from community members interested in our mission
  - working on a specific social justice program, Syrian refugee settlement perhaps?
  - successful and consistent youth group
  - small group ministry involving young adults

Capital improvements are being discussed along with the possible steeple replacement. The Endowment Committee will meet on February 19 to review capital ideas and suggestions generated by the group working on the steeple. The steeple remains a flashpoint: some people in the congregation are adamant that it be replaced with a similar-looking steeple, while others want solar panels, etc. The plan is to aim for a congregational meeting in the coming weeks (possibly February 26) and present options, goals, and objectives for capital projects. Matt stressed the importance of interior maintenance. Louisa noted that if a meeting is held on February 26th to discuss the steeple and other capital projects, a meeting notice must go out 2 weeks in advance. Anita requested that some history of the steeple project be given for newcomers.

**Closing and Roles for March:** Andy motioned to extend the meeting by 10 minutes. Linda seconded. All voted in favor.

Roles for March:

Minutes: Sarah

Facilitator: Linda

Thank UUs: Louisa

Bits from the Board: Sarah

Timekeeper: Andy

Process Observer: Molly

Ralph will be back for April's meeting.

Tom gave closing words about membership. The meeting was called to an end at 8:15 p.m.