

## **UUYO Board of Trustees Meeting: 3/7/2017**

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, Sarah Lowry

Special Guest: Rev. Renee Ruchotzke

Absent: Ralph Malmer

### **Roles for March**

Facilitator: Linda

Process Observer: Molly

Time Keeper: Andy

Thank UUs: Louisa

Bits from the Board:

Minutes: Sarah

**Staff Discussion with Renee Ruchotzke:** Matt announced that he will return to his calling as an Interim Minister and will be leaving UUYO effective July 16, 2017.

The Board processed this unexpected news and reviewed process/procedure to let the rest of the congregation know about this news and period of transition.

Brief discussion of next steps—interim minister, contract minister, developmental minister, etc.

Opportunity for congregational reflection—what do we want to be/achieve in the next 10-20 years?

Take time to listen to/absorb energy of the congregation

WE are the church—we have a leader, but the people are the church

### **Consent Agenda**

*Minister's Report:* Attendance is up. Lots of positive feedback from new attendees looking for a place of like-minded people.

*Treasurer's Report:* Down from Feb. 2017. More expenses with Equal Exchange. More building usage leads to increase in heat/electric bills.

**Andy moves to approve Consent Agenda, Tom seconds. Unanimous approval.**

### **Old Business**

*Share the Plate April:* Barbara Wick Transitional Housing YWCA Youngstown  
*Fundraising Initiatives:*

- Collectibles Sale, May 19-20
  - Assemble Committee end of March
- Begin collecting change on Sunday during coffee hour, "Donate the Change You Want to See" to be auctioned off for a charity at the Church Picnic
- Auction planned for September 16, lead up to 125th Celebration

- Begin Committee earlier to solicit more donations from businesses

*125th Anniversary:* T-Shirts and hats to advertise 125th Anniversary, could also be a fundraising item

- Ask Lukas Darling to do mock up design?
- Possible slogan: *Progressive Spirit of the Mahoning Valley*
- Beacon in the Mahoning Valley
- Luncheon following big celebration sermon/service, weekend of Sept. 24, possibly catering
- Inviting ministers/leaders from neighboring congregations
- Schedule guest minister, someone famous?
- Tangible ways to celebrate/commemorate the anniversary
- Commemorative Booklet, stories from congregants
- Next meeting on March 26 12:30 PM

*Stewardship for 2017:* Identify leader(s) to move forward

- But what about the Finance Committee?
- Conference on Healthy Congregational Growth, May 6 in Akron, to help develop Finance Committee/Stewardship Committee
- Ellen Satre to help guide new leadership?
- Interest in younger leadership
- Leadership needs—Volunteer Fair Part Deux? April 9th
  - List of needs and descriptions AND follow up plan
  - 125th Planning Committee-
  - Steeple Committee-
  - Hospitality Teams-Anita
  - Worship Associates-
  - Finance Committee- Louisa to ask Ellen
  - Equal Exchange-
  - Religious Education-
  - Social Justice- Sarah Lowry to ask Gary Davenport
  - Building and Grounds-
  - Newcomer Involvement Team-
  - LGBT+ (Welcoming Committee)-
  - Young Adult Committee- Molly
  - Special Events-

*Thank UUs:* Bob Siebold Building and Grounds work parties; Linda to send thank-yous for basket; Samantha Fitchen, choir; Lukas Darling, developing/running social media; Christine Gulgas, Worship Associates; Mark Vance, helping with sound; Julia Furman Davis, donating AirBnB to the basket

### **New Business**

Audra Carlson and Patricia Natali organizing Earth Day/March For Science on April 22  
 Convening of Grassroots Progressive Organizations  
 Gary Davenport Convening Church Members engaged in Social Justice activities  
 Social Justice Spotlight

### **Generative Discussion (moved to beginning of the meeting)**

**Roles for April**

Facilitator: Molly

Process Observer: Andy

Time Keeper: Tom

Thank UUs: Linda

Bits from the Board: Louisa

Minutes: Sarah

**Meeting concluded at 7:57 PM**