

Unitarian Universalist Church of St. Petersburg
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees
December 11th, 2013

Present

Board Members: Greg Burton, President; Marcia Piacentino, Reggie Craig, Lori Price, Jane Fanning, Ian O'Hara and Katy Korb (ex-officio), Careena MaCue (ex-officio)

Absent: Dani Skrzypek

Clerk to the Board: Keevy McAlavy

Guests: Pierre Williams, Jesica Peters, Michael Pohl, Nick Wheeler and Tamara Lush (splinters)

1. Greg Burton opened the meeting at 7:13 PM
2. Marcia moved that the agenda be approved. Ian seconded and the motion passed.
3. Ian moved to approved the minutes from both the October and the November meetings. Lori seconded and the motion passed.
4. Developmental Minister's Report
Katy said she understood the reasons behind the exclusion of the staff at the recent congregation meeting and knew it was made with the best of intentions. She stated that actions like that only encourage members to talk about each other behind their backs. It's a problem that goes back to the problem of triangulation in communication.

She stated that eleven new congregational members would be recognized on Sunday the 15th.

- 4 Treasurer's Report
Greg reported that a third \$20,000 withdrawal from the endowment was completed on December 6th. An additional \$15,000 in other deposits had also been made month to date. The current bank account balance was approximately \$21,000.

Greg reported that Dani would send out tax statements to members before the year end with an option to make an additional donation.

Greg posed the question of switching banks due the poor financial situation that Florida Bank is currently in. This question was deferred to the Administration Committee.

5. President's Report
Greg gave a history of the church's problems going back to the late 1990s. He sees two current groups that the congregation falls into. There are pre-Menish and post-Menish members and they correspond to anti-Katy and pro-Katy members.

Greg said that over the years the congregation had been abused and betrayed by a string of former ministers. Alec and Jim were very good at making the church forget its pain but Katy doesn't do that. Some members can't hear Katy's message because they're blocked by the pain.

Greg sees a lot of anger misdirected at the UUA. He reminded the board that Jim Culver was only vetted as a musician and never as a minister. Greg stated that over the years the church had lost close to \$500,000 to abusive ministers. Despite all that the congregation needs to stop acting the victim.

Greg stated that Suzanne's report mentioned Menish more than Jim as a target of anger.

Jane said the congregation needs to move on to a more positive stance.

Katy mentioned that venting only concentrates rather than dissipates anger. She said the upcoming new years service would focus on letting go of pain.

Marcia asked how long do we tolerate members acting out of covenant.

Katy replied that we should forgive up to a point and only if people are willing to change.

Board Hosts

January 5th	Jane
January 12th	Reggie
January 19th	Lori
January 26th	Ian

6. Building and Grounds Report

Reggie Reported that by the end of the week of December 15th revised estimates would come in for scaled down versions of the AC repair project.

Jane reported there was interest among several members in remodeling the brides room and the downstairs women's restroom. This would consist of general cleaning and repainting. She will contact Building and Grounds to coordinate the project so they know what is going on.

7. Worship Committee

Kate reported that pulpit fills for the fiscal year were under budget.

8. Office Manager's Report

Nick Wheeler reported that a letter from the UUA had arrived which described important changes to the retirement account program. The changes require acceptance by signature of the president and vice president on behalf of the church.

Nick requested a dedicated expense account (debit card) to handle day to day activities such as buying postage stamps.

9. Strategic Planning Task Force

Marcia reported that six main goal areas had been identified to help the church move forward. A plan for the first of the six – Membership Growth and Retention has been developed. A champion for the plan needs to be recruited and several members involved in executing it.

10. New Business

Ian moved to approve a request to use Gilmour Hall and the kitchen on Christmas for a free community dinner. Donations to the church would be collected at that time. Jane seconded and the motion passed.

Greg asked that board members consider who will chair the upcoming canvas early next year.

Greg requested that the entire board have a special meeting before mid January to review the budget and present options to the congregation.

Greg adjourned the meeting at 8:54 PM.

Action Items:

1. Board members will review 60 day goals before the next meeting
2. Greg will arrange for Nick Wheeler to have an expense account
3. Keevy will have a revised corporate resolution changing the signatories on the bank account.

Respectfully submitted,
Keevy McAlavy, Clerk to the Board