

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church of Watertown NY
Minutes Board of Trustees
Special Meeting, April 7, 2022

Board Members Present: Heather Winn, President; Robert South, Vice President; Eleanor Allen, Treasurer; Patricia Sutherland, Secretary; Trustees: Joanne Harter (left the meeting about 2:30), Catherine Burns, Rebecca Carr

Board Members absent: Trustee Shannon Starkweather-Burke, (excused)

Others Present: Harriet McMillan, Diego Aguilar (left the meeting about 2:45 pm)

The meeting was called to order by Heather Winn, President, at 1:00 pm, in the presence of a quorum, for the purpose of reviewing the proposed contracts for repairing the flood damage to our church. Our contractor, Diego Aguilar, brought two (2) proposed contracts and is asking for our guidance as to what repairs we want done. His estimate has been submitted to our insurance company and was approved.

Diego mentioned that he was interested in buying the church and land and if he did so, he would pay to fix it up and would let us rent it from him while we search for another site for our church. That way we could have the insurance money to use towards our next church home. Selling the church would necessitate assessing the value of our property, and at this point we have not decided to sell. He told us he could not afford to pay more than \$500,000. He also believes that if we put it on the market its value would go down, especially as it is not in good repair at this time. He knows the siding and roof are problems that need to be tackled immediately. When asked about the Memorial Garden he said that we could work this out, and perhaps even give the church a small office in the building. There were many questions which he answered before leaving us, which he did about 2:30 pm.

To begin discussion, Robert **moved** and Eleanor seconded that **we accept Diego's \$120,987.31 proposal for building repair.** The Board talked about the pros and cons of repairing vs. selling the church, the need to get permission from the NY State Attorney General if we decide to sell, and the need to consult with our congregation to find out what they want to do. Several Board members shared their reasons for choosing selling the church without repairs, or with only minimal repairs. Several others told us they believe the best approach would be making basic repairs so we can use the church, and perhaps the rest of the repairs in the contract we are voting on also in case we decide to remain in our church - whether temporarily or for the foreseeable future. One member expressed wanting to save the insurance money and not repair the church if the congregation decides in favor of selling the church. The Board recognizes that the congregation *must* be involved in any decision to sell the church.

Harriet reminded us that we have recently hired Rev. Hurt as our Transition Minister and that she is aware of our situation. She is expected to be helpful and is planning to join us on May 15 or May 24. The Question was called at about 3:20 pm. There were 4 yays and 1 nay. **Motion carried.** (Eleanor left the meeting) Rebecca will notify Mr. Aguilar.

Heather suggested we contact Rev. Hurt and let her know what we are doing and the decision we just made. Rev. Hurt has been a full-time minister and we will be her third (3rd) experience as a consulting minister.

Heather adjourned the meeting at 3:34 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Patricia J Sutherland, Secretary