

**All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church of Watertown NY**

**Special Board of Trustees Meeting**

**Thursday, February 10 2022**

**Board Members Present:** Robert South, Eleanor Allen, Patricia Sutherland,

Rebecca Carr, Joanne Harter

**Board members Absent:** Heather Winn, Shannon Starkweather-Burke, Catherine Burns

Robert called the meeting to order at 9:37 am.

Today's meeting is to update the Board about the current situation with the church building. Rebecca told us about receiving a new alert from the church alarm in the Nursery. Water appears to be leaking from the soffits in the RE wing. It was dripping inside and indicates another area of concern about the roof. She has contacted Stan Tibbles for his recommendations and an estimate, as he was the one who installed the metal roof over the sanctuary. We talked about the pros and cons of keeping the skylights in the roof.

Rebecca has been working on arranging to get temporary storage of many of the items in the church to facilitate the repair process. It will be important to have access to needed supplies during the interim. We agreed to set 10 am on Saturday, February 19 to meet at the church to sort and pack.

Decisions will be needed regarding repairs in the Wondering Center and Archive rooms. Francis, who supervises the RE wing, likes the idea of replacing with the same floor tile. She will need to be consulted as the repair decisions are made.

Diego Aguilar recommended the water pipes be completely in

heated spaces and also there is an option to replace our copper pipes to a new kind that doesn't burst when it freezes.

Eleanor is aware that we do have some funds set aside to use for repairs and maintenance, which she estimates is approximately \$25,000, but feels very cautious about deleting this fund. Harriet is researching for possible grants if needed.

Rebecca mentioned several continuing areas of concern: she knows there is rotting wood around the dormer windows and that the glazing around these windows is old and needs to be replaced; the RE wing emergency exit door needs the handle repaired so it opens more easily; the stone wall is problematic and may need to be replaced if not repaired; we need to have a plan for good maintenance, reminders of what and when it is needed, and perhaps a paid employee to monitor and keep track of this (as our office manager used to do). **The Board needs to take up these concerns in future meetings.**

On February 2 Sal Bonanza brought a representative from Church Mutual in to inspect the church. Rebecca believes it will be at least another week before we get the report. Once we get it we can begin to make decisions.

**IN SUMMARY**, we need estimates from contractors, we need to know the amounts our insurance will provide, and then we need to brainstorm. We are strong and we stick together and we want to do what is needed so future generations don't have to correct what we failed to do.

Patricia J Sutherland

