

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church of Watertown NY
Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting
September 23, 2022

Board Members Present: Heather Winn, President; Amy Summerville-Loomis, Vice President; Eleanor Allen, Treasurer, Sarah O’Connell, Secretary, Trustees: Joanne Harter, Shannon Starkweather-Burke, Catherine Burns, Janine LaClair

Board members Absent:

Others Present: Robert South, Rebecca Carr, Kelly Sackheim, Frances Mercer, Angelo Guarino, Warren Allen

Preliminaries: - Heather

Heather read the Board Covenant to us. Joanne agreed to be the Process Observer.

Call to Order

Heather called the meeting to order at 9:39 am.

Minutes – Sarah

The minutes of the August 26 Board meeting and the Special Board meeting on August 31 were presented.

Eleanor moved and Amy seconded **that we approve the minutes from the previous Board meeting as well as the Special Board meeting as written.** Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report - Eleanor

Angelo provided the financial reports for July and August to be filed for audit.

Vice President’s Report - Amy

Amy noted that she had met with the rest of the finance committee to discuss issues with the roof, security and fire system, and snowplowing.

President’s Report / Executive Committee Report- Heather

No report

Committee Reports

Finance Report - Eleanor

Eleanor noted that the Finance Committee met on September 21, including her, Harriet, Amy, Sarah and Angelo. She reported that we had received to date \$282,100 from Church Mutual of which we owe or have paid out to Diego and Nyland, the public adjuster, the amount of \$172,977. That leaves \$109,123 for unanticipated costs and repairs. We discussed using some of that money toward roof replacement. We currently have a quote from Tibbles for \$60,000. Eleanor also noted she had gotten a letter from Church Mutual that the premium for our renewal insurance policy (which occurs as of October 4) was being raised but she has not gotten the bill or further information and she has been unsuccessful in getting a return call from our representative Monica in Buffalo. CM in the past has billed at the end of our policy term and Eleanor noted that an insurance company needs to give 60 days notice Diego also had an insurance payment issue from them. Amy suggested contacting her supervisor and Janine and Shannon found pertinent email addresses. Eleanor will follow up on the insurance issue.

Building and Grounds Report – Rebecca

Rebecca reported that she continues to do walkabouts on a regular basis and the building is coming along nicely and we should be in soon although there is cleaning and moving items to be done. She has punch lists for the construction work. She is also gathering proposals for snowplowing. There needs to be outside work done on the siding. She is still trying to get quotes from roofing companies that do metal roofs. Kelly, Shannon and Amy shared some company names. Rebecca will try to get at least 3 valid quotes and report back to us. Sarah, Amy and Janine are working with her on the security system.

Outreach Report – There is no outreach committee, but someone needs to be looking at items from various UU organizations for denominational affairs that come in from UUSC, NYSCU, etc. Sarah volunteered to do that.

Membership/Activities

Heather talked about possibly doing Thanksgiving dinner and future community dinners with Emmanuel Church; they have indicated they would very much like to do that. Robert stated that the Membership/Activities committee felt the community dinners were a wonderful cooperative venture but that it was important this year that Thanksgiving Dinner be an in-house for our own congregation since we haven't been able to get together as our own group in a long time. It was noted that the Urban Mission no longer has funding for the Dollar Dinners so the community dinners can be important, in particular to the elderly living alone and would also give our children a chance to provide service which they would enjoy. Heather suggested that we meet with people from Emmanuel to discuss.

Regarding Religious Education, Robert and Kelly talked about ideas they had for some potential changes to the children's participation in the church service and the social hour. It was agreed that further refinement needed to be made to include discussions with parents and with the Worship Committee. Regarding resuming childcare, the board voted some time ago to rehire her but then the second flood occurred. Now that we are soon to be back in the building, she will be contacted to see if she is still interested and available.

Worship Report – Eleanor

Eleanor reported that the committee is meeting on October 6 and will be looking at the upcoming months' services. Sarah noted that all October services had been scheduled, with Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt presenting a remote service on October 30.

Religious Education – No report, but Frances noted that we may want to wait to make major changes until we see the outcome of the transition process is, but noted that many churches are moving to models where Sunday morning is no longer the main focus.

Ad Hoc Committees

Transition Team

Sarah noted that Rev. Dr. Hurt had created questions for the congregation to answer and we will be dividing people into small groups this Sunday. Members not present that day will be mailed the questionnaire.

New Business

Mail Forwarding: Eleanor noted that the order for mail forwarding lapses soon and wondered if we should have a locking mail box but it was decided this was not necessary. **Shannon moved to let the forwarding lapse, Eleanor seconded and the motion was carried.**

Tai Chi: Ann Halback is looking forward to teaching Tai Chi again at the church. In the past she has paid the church a \$200 rental fee. After discussion, **Eleanor moved and Shannon seconded that All Souls will charge her no rent, but that any church members who wish to attend can do so for free, and she must also move the furniture. The motion was carried.** Warren will contact Ann about this.

Next Board Meeting

The Board meets on the 4th Friday of the month by Zoom at **9:30 am**. The next meeting will be held on **Friday, October 28, 2022**.

Process Observer Report - Joanne

Joanne noted that we stuck with the agenda, and reminded each other if something needed to be addressed later or outside the board meeting. There was a little talking over each other and some lack of “thank you for your efforts” followed by offering constructive comments. She noted that some information presented at the meeting made some people feel unsettled and unaware leaving a need to go on and discuss.

Heather adjourned the meeting at 11:11 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah O’Connell, Secretary