

**Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**May 14, 2017**

Board Attendance: Anne Stark, Dharmini Robertson, Kathy Klos

Other Attendance: Mike White, Emmy Lou Belcher, Gary Stark, Treasurer, Mary Maki,  
Barb Michael, Heidi Gould

Called to order at 12:46 p.m.

1. Minutes approved as submitted.

2. Agenda approved.

3. Treasurer report. Heidi said that she and Gary will be meeting in the next week to go over finances and continue the successful working relationship with our CPA. Receipts exceeded expenditures in April! The stewardship budget was exceeded due to printing and postage. The Communications budget has been exceeded by new advertising expenditures during the preceding year. We have stopped advertising in all print except the Mining Journal. Heidi will work with Gary to prepare his remarks for the Congregational meeting.

4. Religious Exploration Coordinator Report. Kathy says RE is going swimmingly. Jaimie has lots of fun things planned for summer, she's contacting parents to advise them about content for the coming Sunday. Gary asked if we're doing OWL asking who's going to be facilitating. Gary asked if Mike would do a soft ask for OWL parents (members) and charge non-members a fee. Mike will work with Gary to do some post hoc fundraising to help defray the cost. Emmy Lou said non-members should definitely pay for OWL. They don't pledge, they don't support the congregation in other ways.

5. Board Liaison Reports (as needed)

A. Finance Committee, other than Mike, we have not heard from the members. Mike says that he recommends putting the bulk of Joan's donation into the Vision Fund, where it's easily used, as opposed to in the Building Fund where it's harder to use for unexpected expenses. Heidi said that, actually, the Vision Fund is a certificate of deposit, so it's harder to get to. Mike amended his remarks to say we should establish a savings account for the donation. There is language in the bylaws that taking money from the Building Fund requires replacing. The other members have not responded to email requests for advice.

B. Dharmni lauded Barb Micheal for being a fantastic music coordinator and how much that adds to Sunday services. Barb has mentioned that she is interested in phasing out her role as Music Coordinator and that as a Board we should support that transition. We do have several guest accompanyists coming in the next few weeks, as kind of an audition

C. Building and Grounds – Heidi is looking for help fixing the drywall, as her role does not include building maintenance. We need a property manager. Heidi suggested we get a building inspection, since we haven't had one done since we moved in almost 11 years ago. Dharmini suggested an inspector she and John used on their property. Mary Maki suggested calling a number of inspectors to get the most affordable. Heidi will call a couple of inspectors to hire someone.

Old Business

1. Power of Attorney – Heidi said we received a bill from the IRS, a late fee \$135.11. The CPA suggested that we sign power of attorney so he could negotiate that fee. We agreed NO.

2. Room at the Inn – Sarah Johnson sent emails asking if we want to do RATI Dec. 3-10, 2017 and Feb. 25, the weeks that we are scheduled. The Board unanimously approved RATI's use of the building, but not promising the commitment of volunteers from the community.
3. Mural Project. Anne reported that the offer has been withdrawn after a face to face conversation with Katherine.
4. Finalize Budget proposal for Annual meeting – Building Fund allocation. We will fix that temporary use of the Building fund as a place to park Joan Stindler's unrestricted donation by opening an Operating Fund Savings Account. Mike suggested that gg Gordon may bring up the transfer from the Building Fund, and Heidi will have a statement prepared. The budget was approved unanimously.
5. Welcome Packages for Visitors – UU World Seeker Magazine, Mugs and Pens. T-Shirts – New Members. Heidi asked when do we order mugs and pens, and how do we pay for them if we buy them before the beginning of the fiscal year. Mary Maki asked if the purchase of mugs and pen should use domestic vendors or not. Dharmini suggested Mary support the communications committee with purchases going forward.

#### New Business

1. Preview "State of the Congregation" – Darmini read through Dea's draft. We are in the midst of change, the Conversations Over Coffee have shown that we are here for each other. We have done several different things to foster those connections. We can be truthful with each other, not just nice. New members have joined. Burned out members have been revitalized. There is participation in Board meetings. We are becoming more engaged.  
Dharmini made a list of things the BoT has done to become a permission-giving church (as opposed to a bureaucratic stonewalling church) and Mike White has a list of outward-facing events that we have done/hosted.
2. Finalize Annual Meeting Agenda – Budget proposal, BoT nominees, by-law revisions, finance policy are action items for the agenda. Dea will give a state of the congregation and there will be discussion on Joan Steindler's donation. Drafts of agenda for the Congregational meeting went out more than a week ago. The agenda was included in the order of service for May 14.
3. Finance Policy – Mike said that there is a lot of security in having the treasurer's reports electronically generated, rather than transferring numbers from the electronic accounting system to a paper report. Heidi spends a LOT of time preparing the treasurer's reports designed by gg Gordon. QuickBooks is very customizable, we can get all the information we need. Mike said the separation of responsibilities in the new Finance Policy will improve accountability and recruiting volunteers to participate in appropriate work levels for volunteers. Item 5, CPA will be responsible for bookkeeping, length of term to be determined by an annual review by the Board.

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: TBD