

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Restoration
Minutes of the monthly board meeting
December 2, 2018

Present: McKinley Sims, Minister (McS); Tim Styer, Moderator (TS); Fern Culhane, Assistant Moderator (FC); Len Rieser, Treasurer (LR); Stephen Workman, Secretary (SW); Sandy Fulton (SF). Wayne Boyd (WB); Cynthia Bradley (CB).

Vacant: Marianne Elias (resigned)

Chalice Lighting 1:05 p.m. TS opened with a reading

Review of Board Minutes

Minutes of the November 4, 2018 monthly meeting were approved as presented.

Special Presentation:

From the Name-Change Committee. L. Hansell, S. Weltman, and B. McQuate used a PowerPoint presentation to highlight rationale for a name change, potential benefits, and suggested names.

Rationale:

- Current name is a potential deterrent to new members.
- Signals that we are theologically conservative and adhere to a particular creed or dogma.
- No longer accurately depicts who we are.
- Is misleading.
- Is unwieldy.
- Does not express our core values and aspirations.

Potential benefits:

- Invite all people and draw attention and interest from the surrounding community.
- Reflect who we really are.
- Enable us to “build a bigger tent” and enhance outreach efforts.
- Inform how we engage and connect with our local neighborhood, UU Central East Region, UUA, and interfaith partners.
- Integrate Unitarian Universalist values and aspirations in the name.
- Promote a repurposed sense of pride, recognition and responsibility as we approach our 200th anniversary.
- Acknowledge and build upon our rich heritage.

The Board and Name-Change Committee discussed potential options for moving forward, including:

- A special Sunday Service discussing the change
- Putting the issue on the agenda for the February 10 Town Hall Meeting
- Publicizing the issue through mailings, special broadcast emails, newsletters, etc.
- A tentative plan would be to narrow down options to 4-5 names or “no change.”
- A survey may be sent out in the first half of 2019, with a vote to move ahead at the June 16 annual meeting.

Reports were posted on web site; minutes reflect issues that were discussed at the meeting.

Minister’s report: initiatives include initiating and developing a pastoral care committee; outreach to church colleagues in the community; investigating potential purchase of 611 Gorgas Lane; working with DER; developing worship services. New member Sunday is scheduled for January 13.

Religious Education: It's been brought to the board's attention that upstairs isn't being cleaned effectively. Larry Hain has been working with George, but without enough correction. Larry will continue to reinforce this.

Justice Council: Town Hall meeting will be February 10.

Minister needs help with Stenton Manor deliveries. Please confirm whether the judge's order to reverse the restrictions on mail to prisons in Pennsylvania has been enacted.

Finance Report: LR reported that income is now slightly ahead of what's been anticipated by this point in the church year.

Finance committee. The Finance Committee has submitted an opinion that Restoration not move forward with a purchase at this time, as there hasn't been a demonstrated need for this additional undertaking (either in terms of income or church mission). The Committee's opinion is taken under advisement, but the matter remains open.

Building and Grounds: The electrical work may be more complicated than initially anticipated.

611 Gorgas Lane: The home behind Restoration (the former Restoration parsonage) is going on sale. Per its deed, Restoration has the first right of refusal when it comes up for sale. A decision to purchase or not is expected by January 2019.

Incident in church yard: a package of gravel along with a message purportedly by a KKK affiliated entity was left at the church. McS has done some research and believes this is not an immediate threat. Following discussion, it was decided to report the incident to law enforcement, and to let authorities know that we may be able to provide documentation from our security cameras.

Board vacancy. Request from TS to replace Marianne Elias, who ultimately decided she would not be a good fit for the board.

TS is still seeking an additional board representative for UUPLAN.

New Member Sunday: January 13. Five to eight candidates may be interested, with an additional group perhaps later in the church year.

PIHN: PIHN will be back for the month of February 2019.

Board retreat: January 18-19.

200th anniversary. Last Sunday in January is the 2020-anniversary service.

Town Hall meeting will be February 10.

To Do's

McS & TS to continue outreach about 611 Gorgas Lane.

Motion to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 2:25.

Next meeting: January 6, 2019.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Stephen Workman