

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Grand Traverse
Unapproved Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting
August 18, 2015**

Present: Rebecca Somsel, Jerry Beasley, Shelley Burnes, Marco Cabrera, Mike McDonald, Gail Trill

Guest: Ann Swaney, Leadership Development Committee Representative

Minutes

July minutes were approved as corrected. Gail Trill will give a paper copy of the approved minutes to Susan Sherman.

Amendments to the Agenda

Added to the agenda were dates for board members to do the welcoming at the service, a closed session, moving M. Cabrera's proposal up to beginning of new business, and M. McDonald's discussion of media policy.

Public Comment

Ann Swaney reported that Tom Darnton wants to work with the board as a representative of the LDC.

Consent Agenda

Staff report from Sara Montgomery-Richards. No report from Rabbi Chava Bahle due to health issues. Approved.

Officer/Committee Reports

Treasurer Report/Finance Committee: Mike McDonald cautioned that we be mindful of the fact that in the budget \$23,000.00 is from prepaid pledges, and \$9,000.00 is a carryover from last year. Additionally, a bill for \$1250 for carpet cleaning had not been approved by anyone. Since policy requires that maintenance costs over \$1000.00 come from capital improvement, this will be reversed and taken from the capital improvements budget.

Closed Session

The board went to closed session from 12:50 – 1:10.

Policy Report/Action

1. Mike McDonald reports seeing TV people filming the building and questioning them. He reminds us that ONLY the minister and the President of the Board may speak for the congregation. He suggests an article in the Beacon to this effect. Shelley Burnes observed that the recent tragic events were possibly an opening to reach out to support mental health in the community (and to heal our wounds, too).
2. The board discussed a proposal from M. Cabrera to create software to suit the congregation's needs. He will develop software which he would own but not

- charge UUCGT for in exchange for our assistance in the information gathering process. The only cost to the congregation will be staff time costs for meeting with Marco. Motion by Mike McDonald, seconded by Shelley Burnes to approve Marco's moving ahead through the first phase, and to recommend he form an advisory group from the congregation. Motion passed.
3. Considerations re: Chava's schedule were sent to Jerry Beasley and Nick Erber
 4. Personnel Committee will advise as to new policy – with full authority of Personnel Committee to hire/fire all employees except those on the Personnel Committee, which would require Board or congregational action. Gail Trill questioned the liability issues involved with passing board responsibility to a committee. M. Cabrera will talk to the personnel committee.
 5. The Policy Committee asks that we encourage committees to work toward the “common structure” indicated in new policy. This includes asking committees to have co-chairs.

New Business

A motion to approve the hiring of Sheri Novak as our new Business Administrator as of 8/3/2015 was made by Jerry Beasley, seconded by Mike McDonald. Motion passed.

A resolution to remove Leslie Cook from and add Sheri Novak to the bank signatory card was made by Mike McDonald, seconded by Jerry Beasley. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Mike McDonald, seconded by Jerry Beasley: “The Finance Committee recommends to the Board that they approve the Residential Animal Protection Plan proposed by Critter Control to be funded by the Capital Improvement Fund in accordance with Financial Policy #11.” The cost to rid the building of rodent invasion will be \$2500.00. Motion passed. (copy with Mike McDonald)

The board agreed to use of a format incorporating motions/responsibilities for clarification and accountability. This format, a matrix, has been used in the past. Information from each meeting will be passed on by the secretary to the entire board.

A discussion of the membership status of non-pledgers included agreement that the stewardship committee could ask for a pastoral conversation with non-pledgers and the minister can grant a waiver and inform the stewardship committee of this waiver. The board welcomed the input of former minister the Reverend Emmy Lou Belcher to this conversation.

President Somsel has referred handicapped restroom signage in accordance with ADA wheelchair requirements to Richard Miller to reopen the discussion with the Facilities Committee.

Rescheduling of the board retreat with Rabbi Chava will be postponed until after September. Board pictures are also postponed.

Two more congregants are still needed on the Personnel Committee.

Public Comment

Ann Swaney requested that the policy committee's recommended "Common Structure" be presented first to the Leadership Development Committee so they can incorporate it in to their activities. President Somsel will let Mary Grover know of this request.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Trill, Secretary