**Unitarian Universalist Society Board of Trustees Meeting Highlights – March 11, 2020**

Board meeting minutes are available on the website or can be requested from the UUS administrator.

**Present:**  Amy Fretz (President), Joe Rasmussen (Vice-President), Jane DeWitt (Past-President), Chris Rode (Treasurer), Allison Bettine (Secretary), John Raley (Finance Trustee), Michael Honey-Arcement (Trustee), Colleen Higgins (Trustee)Paul Pomrehn (Trustee), and Rev. Diane Dowgiert (Ex-officio)

**Guests:** Dave Martin (Ministerial Search Committee), Allison Oliver (Ministerial Search Committee)

Board President Fretz called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Rev. Dowgiert provided opening words.

**Ministerial Search Committee:** Martin and Oliver reported on the status of the search and announced that the pre-candidating process has begun. Martin and Oliver discussed the period of mutual discernment and requested the support of the Board during candidating week.

**Consent Agenda & Announcements:** Consent agenda and other items are uploaded to Dropbox for Board review prior to the meeting.

*Consent Agenda items:* February Board Meeting Minutes, March Executive Meeting Minutes, Minister’s Report, Treasurer’s Report and Financials

*Moved by Rasmussen, seconded by DeWitt to receive the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.*

*Moved by Rasmussen, seconded by Rode to approve the February Board Meeting Minutes, March Executive Meeting Minutes, Minister’s Report, Treasurer’s Report and Financials. Motion carried.*

**Conflict Management Policy and Procedure:** A second reading of the proposed Conflict Management Policy and Procedure was facilitated by DeWitt. *Moved by Honey-Arcement, seconded by Pomrehn to approve the Conflict Management Policy and Procedure. Motion carried.*

**Request for Increase in Pianist’s Salary:** The request to increase the pianist’s salary was discussed as the additional funds would be fulfilled through a Board controlled account. *Moved by Higgins, seconded by Rode to approve the pianist’s increase in salary. Motion carried.*

**Safety Team Update:** Pomrehngave an update on the Safety Team’s plans to participate in the community’s “Stop The Bleed” and “Heart Safe Community” initiatives. Additionally, an AED will be obtained through a grant from the Community Foundation of Johnson County. Current members of the Safety Team include Emma Barnum, Peg Bouska, Sherry Dolash, Kim Palmer, and Paul Pomrehn.

**Lois Cole Ministerial Formation Team Update:** Pomrehn reported on the status of Cole’s preliminary fellowship and shared that her second-year packet has been submitted.

**Rental Income:** Raley lead a Board discussion of the pros and cons of continuing to pursue rental opportunities. *Moved by Rode, seconded by Honey-Arcement to suspend all new rental agreements indefinitely until the Board can evaluate the financial implications and further voted to approve that the Board gives the staff full discretion to rent to previous and recurring renters. Motion carried.*

**COVID-19 Safety Planning:** A somber discussion regarding the needs of the congregation throughout the COVID-19 crisis occurred. The Board made the decision to temporarily close the building to the public and recommends that covenant/interests groups gather with caution. Ministry will not be suspended but will simply be offered through other formats.

*Moved by Amy, seconded by Rode to approve that the Executive Committee, in accordance with local, state, and/or national recommendations and in consultation with the minister, be granted the authority to make decisions for the safety of the congregation regarding pandemics. Motion carried.*

*Moved by Pomrehn, seconded by Rode to suspend Sunday services for the next two Sundays (March 15th and 22th) and suspend choir practices. Motion carried.*

*Moved by Rode, seconded by Pomrehn to close the UUS building at 2355 Oakdale to the public until the Executive Committee deems it safe to reopen. Further moved, to approve that all salaried employees be allowed to work from home at their own discretion and be compensated at their usual rate and that hourly employees be compensated for the weekly budgeted amount regardless of hours worked. Motion carried.*

**Announcements:** The “Stop The Bleed” and “Heart Safe Community” workshops will be suspended until the COVID-19 risk has passed.

**Closing**: Higgins read the closing words, DeWitt gave process observer comments, and Fretz adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m. The next Board Meeting is Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 6:30 p.m., UUS Conference Room.