

Unitarian Church of Edmonton

Board Meeting of 18 Jan.2023

MINUTES

Present: President Mike Keast, Zoe Larsen, treasurer Andrew Mills, secretary Susan Ruttan, trustees Marilyn Gaa, Gerard Hayduk and Lynn Wolff. Plus Rev. Rosemary Morrison and DRE Oksana Atwood.

Absent: vice-president Brandie Moller-Reid

Agenda: Approval as modified (corrected date of February meeting) moved by Susan Ruttan, seconded by Zoe Larsen. CARRIED.

November Minutes: approved Nov. 19 by email, moved by Andrew Mills, seconded by Brandie Moller-Reid.

TASK LIST:

1. Board spending limit of \$15,000 set in the bylaws - Andrew says the finance committee is nearly finished this review.
2. Thank-you card, gift etc. for Jan McMillan for her years heading up the garage sale. No action yet by Susan and Lynn.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Update on slip and fall incident:** Mike reported on a lawyer's letter re a client of Open Doors who slipped while leaving the Open Doors office in December 2020 and is seeking damages. Our insurance company is handling it.
2. **Dragging youth update:** Mike reported that a right-wing group may appear at the Saturday night Dragging Youth event at our church on Jan. 21, and that a pro-Dragging Youth group has said it may come to defend those attending. Mike said the church supports Dragging Youth in what they want.
3. **Rentals report:** Susan, chair of the Rentals Committee, reported that our AWWOA tenant is not renewing its lease and will be gone April 1. This tenant's rent has been \$39,000 a year. Mike suggested the church reclaim the AWWOA space and use it for church office staff - administrator, minister, DRE. Rev. Rosemary strongly supports this idea, saying the church suffers not having a street-front presence. Andrew, our treasurer, strongly advised that we find a new renter for the AWWOA space. Mike's proposal is to use the current staff offices as small rental units once UCE staff move to the front space. The special group looking at this issue - president Mike Keast plus Susan Ruttan and Doug Eastwell of the Rentals Committee - will do more work on this issue, try to get more good information on the two alternative actions. Susan will contact former UCE member Lillias Cowper, an interior designer, for advice.

REPORTS

Finance: Andrew reported that church finances are looking good.

Minister's Report: Rev. Rosemary clarified her plans for being in Whitehorse for several weeks when her daughter has her baby. She will arrange to cover the services

she is responsible for, either by doing things on-line or by having taped services. Members also discussed Rev. Rosemary's Covenant with Rev. Audrey Brooks; it was agreed that the covenant would not be deliberately publicized, but its contents shared informally.

Director of Religious Exploration: Oksana reported that the part-time staff positions working with UCE youth have been eliminated, because our youth are now young adults.

Ministerial Transition Team: (Lynne Turvey, Louise Charach, Susan Ruttan) Susan reported that the small-group discussions held after church on two Sundays this month drew 44 participants for in-person groups and 17 participants online, plus seven facilitators.

NEW Member: Dr. Lori Campbell has asked to become a member. She writes: "I have a background in adult education and have been in the field of equity, diversity and inclusion. I am semi-retired and would be happy to help on committees." Moved by Lynn, seconded by Zoe, that Dr. Campbell be accepted as a member. Carried.

Meeting adjourned.

**Next board meeting: Wednesday Feb. 15 at 7:15 pm on Zoom.
Susan will send out the Zoom link the day of the meeting.**