

February 2020 Minutes

First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church
1959 Sandy Lane
Fort Worth, TX 76112

Board of Trustees - Regular meeting
February 16, 2020

Board members present: David Winkowski, Dan Sexton, Paul Schattman, Jo Burnham, Brian Skinner, Guy Thornton, Mary Anne Clark,.

Also present: Rev. Annie Foerster, Turner Bridgforth, Patrick Gutierrez.

Visitors: Roy Brake, Christina Laquis

David called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm A quorum was present.

Annie lighted the Chalice (which actually lasted through the entire meeting).

Opening words by Einstein were read by Turner Bridgforth.

Board members reviewed the agenda, which include arrangements for the. Pledge kickoff luncheon in March, and the church smoking area.

Mary Anne read the Board Covenant.

Process observer: Jo Burnham

Timekeeper: Dan Sexton

Board members all checked in.

Visitors Roy Brake and Christina Laquis were introduced.

March Potluck/Pledge Drive Luncheon: Patrick has arranged catering with a mideastern restaurant. Dinners will be ordered for 90 people, with 20% vegetarian entrees. Members and friends will be included in pledging and the dinner. Catering plan was approved by the board. Pledge packets will be ready in 2 weeks, and pledge captains will be chosen from the congregation. Packets will include Annie's letter, the revised pledge forms, information about the church. Board members will return their pledge forms by next week to set a good example. "Light on Stewardship" moments will be set up for Sundays during the pledge period. Poster illustrating pledge progress will be prepared.

Smoking area: Christina noted that current state of the new smoking area by the creek is inadequate (no roofing), difficult to access and hazardous (mosquitos and poison ivy). Annie reported visitor complaints during use of the old smoking area near the sanctuary. Proposal to assign a team to locate and adequately equip a new area for smokers by March 21 was

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approved.

Spiritual Practice: a passage from the Tao Te Ching was read by Paul Schattman.

Action Items:

Dan Sexton reported that work on building and grounds repairs is ongoing. Roy Brake has created a spreadsheet for selected Buildings and Grounds projects to help solicit support from the congregation.

Annie reported that a Green Sanctuary chair has not yet been identified.

Drafts for church policy updates have been prepared and will be sent to board members for their perusal and suggestions.

Spiritual Practice will be done by Brian Skinner in March

***Somebody (help!) noted that several Gay Pride organizations have lost their nonprofit status. A Trinity Pride event will be held 6/13/20 in Magnolia Green in the Fairmount District of Fort Worth.

Guy Thornton noted that the scheduling of a Congregational Fire Drill must await repair of the doors, since in their current state they would not meet inspection standards for the fire marshall.

David Winkowsky reported that preparation of 501(c)(3) tax forms are in progress.

Guy Thornton reported that a new water fountain maybe be obtained for about \$350 for unfiltered water and about \$480 for filtered water. The board approved purchase of a fountain with unfiltered water. Water bottles can be filled in the kitchen.

David Winkowsky summarized the February education video, which described church governance as an integration of partnership, conversation and policy To focus board goals, we need 3 open questions, which will be presented at the next meeting.

In the Minister's report, Annie noted that our current Vision and Mission statements need to be rethought and rewritten, with input from the congregation.

Consent Agenda:

The financial report was reviewed and approved.

The January Board minutes were reviewed and approved.

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Committee reports will be collected by the board liaisons and sent to Board members.

Mary Anne Clark will prepare handouts for the visitors table about opportunities for participation.

The Share the Plate recipients for the next year are:

- April - June: Eastside Ministries
- July-September: Reading Partners
- October - December: RAICES
- January - March: Planned Parenthood

Outstanding items:

- Arrangements for our assistance with the U.S. Census participation are continuing.
- Board goals were discussed, and three areas were defined: making the church more welcoming, board functionality, and congregational connections. David will send a draft to board members.

Action Items:

- Items related to building maintenance are ongoing and reported above.
- A policy folder will be prepared and made available in the church office.

Several items of old business that remain incomplete were mentioned:

- Changing the name of the church. Jo Burnham noted that the name change will involve considerable expense.
- Banner display
- Door repair and replacement

Annie extinguished the Chalice and the closing words were read by Turner Bridgforth.