

Red River UU
Board Meeting. April 21, 2024
Alexander Room at 12:40 PM
Minutes

All board members were present and Jana, Jack and Cristin were visitors.

Call to order, 12:51

Consideration of Don and Dave changing responsibilities as Trustee and Secretary. Moved by Amy and seconded by Carole to approve. Approved by all.

Consideration of minutes as distributed. No additions or corrections. Moved by Amy and seconded by Carole to accept the minutes. Unanimous approval.

Carole gave a financial report, which was quite encouraging. We have a year-to-date profit of over \$7,900. Probably will become lower in the next three months, but we have some money to spend if needed. Some options were presented, and Amy also listed some needs to be funded, including the Earth Day celebration and recycle event in the fall.

Dave moved and Don seconded to approve \$500 dollars immediately for advertising the recycling event. Approved by all.

Some damage found in a wall in the church due to a leak in the roof. And some security issues need to be addressed as well.

Discussion on need for better public relations in the community. Jim mentioned a projected budget of \$50,000 for next year.

Marilyn says \$500 was allocated for social action projects and we spent \$178.12.

Jack mentioned the success of the Welcoming Teams this year. Also explained the advantages of having a lay led church for LGBTQIA+ group.

There was some discussion on how to bump up funding for Pride events and other items as tee shirts.

Carole inquired about where to put \$1705 in the budget - PR or advertising? Agreement to put it in advertising for PR.

Discussion ensued on the need to look for grants for positions other than for a minister.

Jim says the Minister Search Team has not met recently. The reason is because there are no candidates for the minister position as of now. We need to not wait for a minister to save us. We need to save ourselves. Hiring a minister would put a real strain on our budget, which would remove \$50,000 out of our savings and after two years of having a minister, we still would not have the funds to continue having a minister. Maybe we should hire a PR firm to help increase our visibility and take advantage of the recent visitors that have come to our church.

Jack mentioned that these visitors were attracted to this church partly because it was lay led, and not under the dogma of a minister.

Jim mentioned the burden that Marla is working under, taking care of the worship services without a lot of help and that is what precipitated the discussion on our need of a minister.

Daniel Polk from NTUUC and two others say that our plan to have a contract two-year minister who would increase our membership to the point that we could continue to hire a minister, would not work since new members tend to pledge at lower levels than the rest of the membership. Also, a minister would not be able to increase membership sufficiently and those new members may leave when the new minister's contract is up.

Marilyn talked of the Congregational Goals, Progress and Revisions and other items to be discussed at the congregational meeting. Jim said that the email blast goes out by May 5.

Discussion ensued on upcoming elections and also the new Vision Statement at the Congregational meeting. Amy volunteered to give the opening reading and Jana consented to give the closing reading.

Amy reported on Emergency Preparedness update. We need a discrete ID number for applying for grants, and we should get our own 501 (c)(3) certification. Our vinyl siding is not up to commercial code due to flammability issues. An auto sprinkler deluge system using compressed air would be expensive. An upgrade grant limit is \$170,000 and we would need most of that.

Jana discussed the need for a fire drill. Many won't know where to go. We need training on fire extinguishers, and we need mapped escape routes with exits defined. Fire extinguishers and defibrillator need to be inspected and certified.

Amy reported on new Vision Statement. "To create a local community that is Spiritually Alive, Joyfully Inclusive, and Justice Centered." We will vote on it at the congregational meeting.

We had a rained-out Earth Day, so the clothing swap has been rescheduled to May 4. The Welcoming Congregation group is taking over and managing it. That team is working on a name change in the near future.

Marilyn has not received photo copies from Jack on her ordainment and certification.

Marla has been talking to Byron, a visitor. The president of Sherman's Temple Beth Emmeth is Andy Faber. They are meeting at the Presbyterian Church but would consider coming here. Amy talked to their Treasurer, Norman Gordon, in the last six months. They are charged by the service, not by the month, and they need security for the Torah, which they lack there. Discussion ensued on providing security here and what we would charge per room.

Amy reiterated the need for our own 501 (c)(3) rather than using the blanket one that NTUUC provides.

The welcoming team has their own email now:
RRUWwelcomingteam@gmail.com.

There will be no board meeting next month because of the congregational meeting.

Adjourned at 2:09 PM, April 21, 2024

Transcribed by Don Rogers