

UNITY CHURCH OF ALBANY
Minutes of the Board of Trustees' Meeting
January 21, 2021

Participating in Board Meeting (via Zoom call, 5:00 PM EST): Heather Diddel, president; Dottie Frament, vice president; Karin Reinhold, treasurer; Patricia Wood, secretary; Peggy Kaufmann, trustee; Dave Ferrill, trustee; Carol Morris, alternate trustee; Rev. Roger Mock, assistant minister, Nina Corcoran, office administrator

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:06 pm.
2. **Proposed 1/21/2021 Agenda:** The proposed agenda was approved.
3. **Minutes Approval:** The minutes for the December 10th and January 7th meetings were approved. The minutes for January 14th were amended to reflect that Reverend Roger would only temporarily facilitate the Tuesday Heart to Heart sessions until a more permanent host was identified. With this amendment, the January 14th minutes were approved. Abstention: Dottie Frament.
4. **President's Report:** Heather commended the Board for demonstrating dedicated leadership, particularly during the past ten months during this turbulent time. With Reverend Steve's appointment as interim minister since March 2020, his service during this challenging time was especially helpful, as the church moves towards securing its next senior minister.
5. **Staff Reports:** Nina reported that per the Nominating Committee outreach to the congregation re: the upcoming Annual Meeting and the election of new Board members, 15 people had responded and renewed their memberships. Renewals were necessary to ensure the right to vote during the Board election. There had been some issues with the Servant Keeper membership database, but Nina was working with the Servant Keeper staff to address these issues.

Nina also reported that during the annual church building furnace maintenance, the service company advised that given the advanced age of the large basement furnace, it was only performing at a 55% efficiency. They were no longer comfortable servicing the unit, as replacement parts were difficult to obtain. She received a bid for furnace replacement from said company and will work with Dave Ferrill and the Buildings and Grounds Committee on securing two additional bids. More members are needed to

serve on the Buildings and Grounds Committee, so the Church can benefit from additional expertise.

6. **Finance Report:** Karin provided a report on Unity Albany finances. She was pleased to report that December income was well above expenses. Revenue/donations were \$25,475. Expenses were \$18,004. The Giving Tuesday fundraising effort and the Year End Appeal generated significant donations, each being very successful. Given the deficits from September-October-November, the strong donations from December offset most of the accumulated losses. For year-end 2020, the church had a \$4,000 deficit, which was welcome news, as the earlier deficit projections were more dire.

Discussion turned to Unity Albany's monthly tithing. The majority of tithing goes to various Unity Worldwide Ministries entities; the remainder goes to support the Albany-area FOCUS Church network, which provides important services to the local region in the area of food justice in particular. It was suggested that given the pandemic, and the financial hardships of many more local people and families, consideration should be given to increasing the FOCUS share to 50%, for the time being.

Motion to change the FOCUS allocation to 50% was made, seconded and approved.
Abstention: Heather Diddel.

Motion to approve the finance report made, seconded and approved, with great thanks and appreciation to Karin and the Finance team.

7. **Other Updates:**
 - **Nominating Committee:** Given the low rate of responses to the Membership Renewal outreach, additional follow ups were suggested, to increase the response rates. Dottie will work with Nina and Cheri Warren on this effort.
8. **Next Meeting/Adjournment:** The next meeting was set for January 28th, 5 to 6:30 pm. The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Patricia Wood, secretary, Board of Trustees