

Unity of Savannah
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2017
6:35 PM – 8:55 PM

Call to Order Rev. Worley called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Attendance: In attendance were Rev. Dale Worley; Carol Hodges, Vice-President; Sally Klein, Secretary; Kathryn Thaggard, Alternate. Absent were Brenda McMillin, President; Allen Clark, Treasurer; and Linda Morgan.

Heart Check: Everyone is feeling very positive. We are holding Brenda in prayer.

Approval: Dale moved that the December minutes be approved. Sally seconded. The December minutes were approved.

President's Report: Brenda was absent.

Treasurer's Report: Rev. Worley reviewed the Treasurer's Report. He seeks input on the structure of the Treasurer's Report to consider whether or not the gain/loss on investments should be included as part of operating income. We are \$18,601.19 in the red for 2016. (Parentheses indicate negative numbers on the Analysis of Revenues and Expenses – Detail report.)

He detailed reasons for some of the over budget items in the expense category. For example, Spirit Fest was an unbudgeted expense. If we use a special events budget line such as that used for guest speaker Edwene Gaines and Wednesday night services, these items will appear as positives. These monies are paid into and out of Special Events budget.

Minister's Report: Rev. Worley reviewed his report. Among the highlights were his appreciation of those who helped make the holiday events successful; the past year has been challenging and fun and has provided many opportunities for growth. Edwene Gaines' presentation was "powerful." Average attendance for 2016 was 102 for both services. We took in over \$10,000 last Sunday in collection donations. Participation in the MLK Parade was outstanding and garnered recognition from local television media. Marguerite is doing an excellent job with end-of-year finances. New Board candidates are Kathryn Thaggard and Katie Holliday. The Unity Community Brunch is this month. We have many other events coming up, including the Georgia Kyle Concert which will be a benefit for Alice Rye Williams. Dale will be going to Tennessee next week. The Finance Committee is working on a draft of the 2017 budget. Rev. Worley will email it to Board members before he leaves for Tennessee. His goals include increase attendance by 10%, replenish money to operating account by \$1,000 a month, increase financial effectiveness of special events, and several others. Rev. Worley received the word "understanding" as his personal theme for the year and the word "consciousness" for the church. For the complete report, see the report on Dropbox.

Old Business

Rev. Worley's evaluation and contract will be completed as soon as possible. Brenda, Carol, and Allen will meet with Rev. Worley to discuss them as soon as possible. (An Executive Session was proposed for 8:30 tonight, but since we do not have a quorum, the one remaining question for the contract will be answered via email vote.)

Carol stated that we should review pending business items and prioritize them at the first meeting of the year. Files that are in the attic should be examined soon. Marguerite should be present during the examination to give input on legal or other requirements for keeping/saving financial records. There is a free community shredding event coming up soon; we should take advantage of that if possible. We should ask for volunteers at the Town Hall Meeting next Sunday to help remove the records from the attic. We should also ask for a volunteer to head up writing the church's history. We want to make sure that all records pertinent to the history should be retained. Margaret Waters, a genealogist and Dr. Pat English would be valuable in this process. Sally will write a summary of Board members for the years 2014- 2016.

Rev. Worley will contact Evelyn Wilson and Dr. Pat English, as Board Nominating Committee members, for input on candidates for the open Board of Trustees position/s.

New Business

Carol asked if we could consider having volunteer committees in advance of special events such as S.E.E. in the Field, Spirit Fest, and possibly a November fund raiser. Rev. Worley mentioned that MLK Parade participants wanted to head a committee for that event next year. The Pride Festival is also a standing event that could

benefit from such a committee. This would help distribute the work load and facilitate planning ahead for each event. Each event could have its own committee.

Sally suggested that requirements for receiving monies from the Benevolence Fund be re-examined. Her concern was that perhaps people who could not work or volunteer due to health problems might be excluded. Rev. Worley and Carol agreed that clarification and re-examination is needed.

Preparation of the President's Report for the Town Hall Meeting: Carol will work with Brenda.

Next Meeting: Sunday, January 22, 2017 after the Town Hall Meeting

A brief discussion of The I of the Storm followed. Our mission and vision statements need to be re-examined, a process which should involve as many congregants as possible under the guidance of a neutral, outside consultant.

Weather Check: All is well.

Respectively submitted by Sally Klein, Secretary.