

**UUFVB Board of Trustees Meeting  
Thursday March 17, 2022, 4:30 PM**



*“To secure the spiritual and financial future of the Fellowship  
by working together with the Congregation”*

**Attending:**

Members: Sue Burt, Kathy Cossa, Barbara Dunst, Rebecca Hornbuckle, Ken Klein, Woody Sutton, Patty Walker and Kaaren Anderson *ex officio*;

Guests: Diane Osiecki – *Asst Treasurer*

Members absent: Jonnie Mae Perry, Tom Tierney, (Both notified us in advance)

The meeting was called to order by President Kathy Cossa at 4:32 PM. Inspiring opening words were spoken by Barbara. Check-in followed. During Check in Patty informed us that Loudon Wainwright, the evening performer, had a flight delay but was on his way. Patty Walker was strongarmed by the Chairman into the role of Process observer.

Minutes of February 17, 2022 were approved as presented without modifications.

**Woody moved to accept; Barbara seconded; Unanimously agreed.**

**Treasurer’s Report:** Rebecca didn’t send out Feb Financial report but reported that we were in the black for the month and a consolidated report for Feb and March will be provided next month. She then reviewed the proposed budget that was discussed at the Finance Committee and had been emailed to the Board members. It is provisional but it is what we have, given what we know now. Rebecca reviewed the line items and there were very few questions. Anyone with questions should contact Rebecca directly. Bottom Line: Provisional Budget has 36K deficit but we don’t know what pledge numbers will be, so this submission is provisional. It is also aspirational according to Rebecca because it has included items that we are hoping to fund. Very nice Job Rebecca.

**Motion: Rebecca: The provisional budget presented today will be the one given to the Congregation at the annual meeting. Seconded by Barbara. The Board voted unanimously for the motion.**

Next Woody presented the status on the Bridges sale. A task force of Rebecca, Kathy, Woody, Diane (served on Bridges Comm), Rod Baker (Former Board Treasurer) , Bill Ames (solid background in Church matters with an outsider perspective) and Ginger Heller (former Chair of Bridges). The task force was brought up to date on the history of looking for a buyer and Yehsica’s interest in buying the business. Issues were discussed. **Woody will put his notes into writing and will be providing them to us.** A straw poll was taken about moving forward and the conclusion of the poll was to go forward. Next step: Kevin Berry our designated attorney will be brought on board. Key item is about shared assets. Woody reminded us that the Devil is in the Details. Everyone nodded, some with a Cheshire Cat grin. Kathy asked for a vote from the board for going forward with this proposal. Also, how public do we want to make this currently since we have nothing solid to report. **Kathy will discuss with Yehsica regarding how public this should be now. Woody will write up a separate position paper about this.**

Regarding leaseback, Bridges will have access to Fellowship owned facilities, Fellowship Hall, Kitchen and all of Bridges current space, except we take control of certain spaces for the Yard sale, Polling and other annual events. This will be refined and written into the lease agreement..

**Motion: Board approve this offer and leaseback including retaining an attorney. Woody moved. Ken Seconded. Approved. Board unanimously approved.**

## **Minister's Report**

Kaaren reviewed her matrix over Zoom from her office amid comments that she must be a latent Zoom aficionado. Ignoring the taunts, she proceeded.

She did a line-item detail of what she had prepared all during the meeting day. It is currently a combination of all our responses. I will not document what she has said because **she will be sending an updated copy of her work so far**. It was evident that this has taken a great deal of time and effort on her part. Following are some thoughts Kaaren had put out there and that might not be imbedded in her document. This is not a summary of her presentation.

- We are good to Ministers, no contentious relationship. Big Asset when talking to future Ministerial candidates.
- We need a new Mission Statement.
- Kaaren showed a Matrix of data that indicated that we are not really a shrinking congregation especially since we have navigated Covid without a significant drop. Also, we will have new members that have been through the Kaaren Pledge Class routine and sign up knowing the expectations.
- Kaaren has a different model , if we want, for getting Social Justice involvement by volunteers (come back to this in April)
- We can offset our shift in income by encouraging more Rentals of our space. Her previous Church was fully booked and it provided significant income.
- Regarding our Church school, Kaaren also stated that EVERY church in the denomination is losing children / Millennials are not going to church. If we couldn't grow with Kelly, Kaaren doesn't think we will grow without a sizable, focused investment.
- Regarding our church needing more public recognition, it was mentioned but some responders that our name leads some to assume we are a cult. To Kaaren, Fellowship means something different for UU's than to nin-UU's. Fellowship means "Lay Led" in UU terminology. We should take up the question of a name change again as a beginning to address the UU image in our community.

## **Action items:**

- **Woody will put his notes of the Bridges Task Force meeting into writing and will be providing them to us.** (Done – 3-24-2022, circulated with Minutes)
- **Kathy will discuss with Yehsica regarding how public this should be now**
- **Woody will write up a separate position paper about notification of Bridges sale to the congregation.** (Done - 3-24-2022, circulated with Minutes)
- **Kaaren to send out her latest copy of the Matrix.**

## **Reminders**

1. **Opening Words:** April - Patty Walker
2. **April Board Schedule:**
  - a. Ex. Committee - Tuesday April 12, 2022, 11.00 A.M.
  - b. Board- Thursday April 21, 2022, 4:30 P.M.