Saltwater Church Board Minutes August 19, 2020

Attending: Kristin Kuriga, Kathy Jorgensen, Ray Valpey, Gaye Greeves, Karin Leisy, Mayda Taney, Lauren Crowder, Anjali Lopez

Our Mission:

**At Saltwater Unitarian Universalist Church, we**

**Practice Love**

**Foster Connection**

**Nurture Spiritual Growth**

**Act for Justice**

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| Topic | Presenter | Notes |
| Call to Order  Chalice Lighting (Mission recitation and commentary)  Check in | Ray  All |  |
| Consent Agenda approval  Minutes  Agenda | Ray | Unanimously approved. |
| Financial review - month  Rental income is lower | Gaye | July was a good month for pledge payments. Expenses are minimal, mostly utilities and personnel. Income exceeded expenses by almost $15,400. Cash reserves will be approximately $60,000, not counting the PPP money. We are in a good financial situation.  Rent from Planting Flowers was not paid in full for June, when they paid $2,000. They paid the full rent for July of $2,750. They may not be possible to pay the full rent every month until there are more children in attendance.  Hattian Christians United was not able to pay rent for July. Kristen has been in conversation with the renters. Hattian Christians United will likely not be able to pay rent again until they are able to meet in person.  Synagogue wants to renew its agreement at the same rate for three years. The Board approved the signing of a three year rental contract with the synagogue. |
| Outdoor Preschool |  | Teshia and Kristen discussed creation of a non-profit organization to provide an outdoor preschool (similar to Forest Kinderland). The non-profit status has been approved. Teshia would administer the program and Kylie would teach the children. The program would serve children from low income families. Prior to opening, trees need to be evaluated by an arborist. Kristen and Ray will work on the rental agreement, and review recommendations previously provided by Jason Puracell. |
| Minister’s report  -including facility/safety concerns | Kristen | Overall reaction to collaborative ministry via zoom has been positive.  There are concerns that inappropriate things are happening on the church grounds. Cars are parked on the property, and someone deposited a mattress. Doors have been left open. The campus is closed. Board approved changing of the codes and restricting who has access to the codes. Staff, board president, and head of facilities will be provided with the new code.  Discussion of creating a safety team with representation from all authorized property users. Department of Homeland Security and Des Moines PD made recommendations in the past. A grant application to make some of the improvements was not approved by DHS. Cameras are not an option, as they would not be monitored 24/7.  Synagogue and church had a verbal agreement to have window blinds installed in the welcoming room. Lighting has been a problem for an extended period of time. Church likely needs at least 12 tall lights. Facilities team will start looking at lighting.  Signage needs to be improved so that people realize that church grounds are not part of Saltwater State Park.  Facilities will close the large parking lot until the campus reopens.  Kristen will partner with property users to create a safety team made up of members of all organizations that use the facilities. |
| Board Covenant  Discussion of suggested Revisions | Kathy | The Board unanimously approved the new proposed covenant for the 2020-21 church year. The covenant is based in the prior year’s covenant and discussions during the Board retreat. |
| Tax exemption Task Force  Brief report | Ray | Task force has dwindled to Geoff Jackson. Kristen approved the submission of the documents to the Department of Revenue. The revised tax bill will be issued in 2021. The taxes due in October 2020 will be the same as April 2020. An increased tax bill should be expected for calendar year 2021. |
| Pandemic Task Force  Brief report | Anjali | Task force has not yet convened. Kristen has prepared a charge for the task force. |
| Focus area: Living into Mission | Anjali  Karin  Lauren  Kristen | Group has met once. There was confusion as to the purpose of this focus group. Board members concluded that they needed a deeper conversation with Kristen. Meeting was scheduled for September 8th. |
| Focus area: Covenant revision | Mayda  Kathy  Kristen | Mayda and Kathy met. We need to charge HCT with continuing to work on a process to revise the covenant, and steps to be taken prior to beginning the process. HCT has scheduled a meeting for 8/28. Mayda, Kristen, and possibly Kathy will attend this meeting. It might be advisable to hold a compassionate communication workshop prior to soliciting input from the congregation. For the new covenant. |
| Review of Board Policy  Set a schedule for future reviews | Ray | Bylaws need to be reviewed.  Board policies are not current as they were prepared prior to the transition to policy governance. Policies need to be reviewed to determine if they would be applicable for policy governance.  Bylaws will be reviewed during the September meeting. |
| Reflection on process  Review of Mission  Closing words/ Extinguish Chalice  Next meeting: September 23, 2020 | All  All | Board covered a lot of material. We stayed close to schedule. |