

Board Minutes, November 8, 2020

**Present**: Barisonzi, Genereaux, Hood, Rude, Shifferd, Van Etten.

The meeting was called to order on zoom following the service.

**Finance:** Absent the formal reports from JJ, Jude shared her tally for October: Expense from checking account = $1496.76, which includes $250 to savings; income from pledges = $1450, interest on accounts = $3.39. Expenses included payment to Roger Sweeney for stained glass window materials.

**Program:** Programs through January are scheduled. The schedule includes “attendance” at the Auburn AL Christmas service on 12/27. We discussed whether we would like to also gather either on Dec. 24 or 25. The consensus was that readings, music, etc. would be a good way to mark the holiday. Judy will give this idea some structure.

**Buildings & Grounds:** The wall project is almost done: filled, graded, seeded, covered with matting to prevent erosion. Final completion will wait until spring, including sidewalks, railings. The city noted that our portion of the sidewalk is “trippable,” but city officials suggested that when the new sidewalks are poured next spring, that our portion can be fixed. The board consensus was that having them do this was the most efficient way to go. The expense is an open item.

The b&g committee will meet later and take up a list of other items. Meanwhile, nothing else needs to be done outside. Valerie noted that the ramp is not flush with the threshold making for an accessibility issue. In addition, she suggested we consider toilet safety frames in the baths, since the grab bars are not convenient. There is no window replacement yet and various degrees of concern about this were expressed. Consensus was to continue to wait. Finally, the fence on our south boundary has been removed as agreed.

**Communications:** An extended discussion took place about the proposed text of an advertisement to be placed in the Chronotype asserting BHUUF’s support for racial justice and Black Lives Matter. A motion was proposed to place a quarter-page ad in the Chronotype that expresses the position of the UUA for racial justice and that we stand together with other faith groups who have made similar statements. Motion carried. The matter was referred back to the sub-committee with the hope that a revised text could be approved by the board as soon a feasible.

**Social & Environmental Justice:** This group has divided the work into three subgroups: climate, institutional racism, and indigenous peoples. The climate group reported on their mission which emphasizes solutions, henceforth to be called the climate solutions group.

**Community Service:** People are taking food from the pantry; we have plenty of supplies. As the temperature drops, canned goods will be removed, perhaps to be sent to the city food pantry. The committee will meet to discuss other matters, including possible Thanksgiving meals projects. The schools have been contacted and have indicated there is no need for internet access in our building at the moment.

**Sister Congregations:** A report from that sub-group was discussed, including the fact that distant connections (TX, AL) are of a different sort from area groups, like St. Croix Falls. A motion was proposed to pursue the TX and AL connections. Passed. Tom Gelineaux will check with his colleagues at the San Juan Fellowship.

**Website:** Ken notes that in addition to bhuu.org we also own the domain name bhuu.com. The board agreed with Ken’s recommendation that we let the latter expire. In addition, Ken will look into a different account for email through the website.

The meeting was thankfully adjourned at 12:30 or so.

Submitted by Patricia Shifferd.