

People's Church Board of Trustees Meeting

May 8, 2025

6:30-8:30pm

Minutes

Present: Joe Hampel, Brian Lewis, Amy Meyer, Cindy Pietras, Juli Ginn, Teresa Klan, Gordon Bolar, Laura Bultman, Donna Kaye
Diane Melvin, Pat VanSlambrouck (in place of Tom as treasurer)

Opening

1. Chalice Lighting and Words: Brian Lewis
2. Check in: What is keeping you busiest in this busy time of year?
3. Affirmation of covenant, mission and vision

COVENANT: We convene, bringing our best selves - prepared, listening and open - as we work together to further the Mission and Vision of People's Church.

MISSION: A beloved community embracing and serving our diverse world.

VISION: Aligning with the Principles of the UUA while growing in love, People's Church:

- ☐ Builds a diverse and inclusive loving community
 - ☐ Freely searches for truth and meaning
 - ☐ Provides solace and rejuvenation
 - ☐ Embraces equity and pursues Social Justice
 - ☐ Cares for our planet Earth, the home we share with all living things
4. Review and approve minutes of April 2025 meeting
 5. Review and approve agenda of May 2025 meeting

Board Business:

1. Budget Review (Pat VanSlambrouck)

Starting with this year's budget: we are running a deficit and expect to run even more of one by the end of the year. We've withdrawn fifty thousand dollars from the Palmer fund to cover the end of the year, which should be more than enough. If we do not use it all, the excess will go back into the Palmer fund.

Prepaid pledges (the whole year paid up front) have started drying up. We should be taking in \$25,000 each month but instead in April we brought in \$15,000. There was a budgeted deficit in FY24-25. We will probably fall \$20,000 short of expected income.

Budget for FY24-25 was \$357,000 and we'll probably be coming in at \$340,000 through pledges so there's a bigger gap than expected.

The 2.5% is an anticipated cost of living/expenses increase.

Building use fees: Some concerns about the ability of current renters to continue their contracts with us at the higher rates. Eli had considered grandfathering in the renters who could not afford the increase, but will that result in the higher projected renter income or will they depart? How has the departure of the Buddhist group affected this income projection? Does this projection include potential renters who are not yet contracted with us?

The bookkeeper has been hired at a certain rate which will be increased after a trial period.

It is estimated that the administrator is currently doing 15 hours of RE work a week, hence the request for a 15 hour a week RE assistant. It could also be possible to approve a certain budget and let the assistant work more hours during busier times.

The Building Fund line will be pulled from the Palmer Fund.

We decided not to ask for a special collection for the bell refurbishment and will find this money in the budget.

Changes to the budget:

- Included \$3000 in the piano/organ/bells maintenance
- Removed the \$3000 from the building fund
- Changed the expected pledges from \$365,000 to \$350,000 which we believe is more realistic
- Changed UUA contribution to \$10,000 which is 38.9%
- Changed RE assistant from 15 hours to 12 hours

These changes give us a deficit of \$27,194 for the year.

The Board approved the new budget with the changes they created.

2. May Annual Meeting Planning (Joe Hampel)

Brian Lewis, Amy Meyer, Donna Kaye will help with handing out voting cards and ballots. Amy Meyer, Cindy Pietras, Joe Hampel, and Brian Lewis/Gordon Bolar (alternates) will help on June 2nd. Time to be decided by the participants and Eli.

Request for opening/closing words and chalice lighting during the annual meeting. Joe Hampel, Brian Lewis, and Barb Davis will discuss how to fit that into parliamentary procedure.

Church and Staff Oversight (if time permits):

1. Staff and Committees

A new bookkeeper has been hired: Kelly Scott. She worked at Aquinas College as well and has a background with some of our financial software as well.

2. Green Sanctuary Request

We did not have time for this and will discuss at the next meeting.

Other

Closing words: Brian Lewis

Adjournment