

Decorah UU
Minutes
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Randd Properties Building
Tuesday, May 1, 2018

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Bill Pardee.

Board Members Present – Bill Pardee, Bruce Jordan, Beth Wahlberg, Annastacia Cowles, Jim McIntosh.

Others Present – Decorah UU members Mike Vermace and Matthew Alexander; Decorah UU Fellowship Coordinator Otter Dreaming.

Chalice Lighting and Reaffirmation of the Board Covenant

Additions to the Agenda – Bruce requested a short time to talk about Hospitality.

Comments from Decorah UU Members and Friends – There were no comments.

Reports

Treasurer’s Report (Addendum A [report/email attachment]; Addendum B [email & email attachment]) – Beth moved and Bruce seconded that the Treasurer’s Report be approved as received via email. Jim described how checks are sometimes made out directly to our Share-the-Plate recipients, so the amount shown in the report doesn’t always match what the beneficiary really receives. The Board discussed how the aforementioned situation might be remedied and clarified. Jim reported that Alicia has financial figures ready for OWL and will get them to Jim soon. Jim asked for clarity regarding the policy of paying Steve if Decorah UU cancels a service and, conversely, not paying Steve when he is not able to provide child care. The policy applies to Steve’s childcare, but not to Otter’s music. The motion (made by Beth and seconded by Bruce) carried.

Approval of Previous Month’s Board Meeting Minutes – Annastacia moved and Beth seconded that April’s Board Meeting Minutes be approved as received via email. The motion carried.

Old Business

- a. **Lingonberry report** – Mike gave a brief summary of the Search Committee’s process of looking for a new location for Decorah UU, how the process was brought to a conclusion, and what has transpired since then. The committee comprised Julie, Andrea, Carolyn, Ruth and Mike. Their weighted scoring system brought The Lingonberry, Bethania and the Sr. Center to the top of their list. Plans for a kitchenette and childcare space improved The Lingonberry’s score. Bill prepared a chart comparing features of The Lingonberry, Bethania and the Sr. Center (**Addendum C**). Board members discussed the committee’s findings and Bill’s chart, including: presenting the findings neutrally to the Fellowship at the upcoming Annual Meeting; the possibility of handicapped parking at The Lingonberry; being able to sit in a circle (in any new space); visibility (of any new space); the acoustics of The Lingonberry; the frequency with which Decorah UU might be bumped from The Lingonberry schedule; the possibility of secure storage (locked cabinets) at The Lingonberry; a monthly fee that would include use of The Lingonberry through the week whenever it is not already in use; investing in needed improvements (in any new space); setting up and tearing down for every service (in any new space).

New Business

- a. **Prep for Annual Meeting** – Ellen Rockne will provide a table for an altar in the center of the circle. We will not use a sound system. Bruce has things lined up for hospitality. Bill will let Otter know what needs to be printed out for the Annual Meeting. Mike should be prepared to describe the committee's process.
- b. **Service on July 15** (cost issue only) – Board members agreed that Decorah UU will have a service on July 15, as recommended by Karen Esterl (**Addendum D**).
- c. **Send someone to Leadership School? (Addendum D)** – No. Board members agreed that our focus is on building our Fellowship right now.
- d. **Hospitality** – Bruce reminded the Board that he intends to rotate out of Hospitality coordination at the end of the present fiscal year. Janelle has agreed to do the summer months. A new coordinator needs to be found to prepare for the In-gathering ceremony in September. Bruce will help Janelle in the summer. Bruce, and the need for a new coordinator, will be recognized at this Sunday's Annual Meeting.

Extinguishing the Chalice

Adjournment – Annastacia moved and Beth seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

The Next Board Meeting – The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 5, at 7:00 p.m. at the Randd Properties building.

Respectfully submitted by
Otter Dreaming, Decorah UU Fellowship Coordinator

Addendum A

2018 April Finance Summary (email attachment)

Addendum B

Share the Plate Update (email & email attachment)

Board;

The collection for the Decorah Free Clinic was \$277.00. See the attached form for the status of "Share The Plate." The new share the plate group is the Art Haus.

At present the collection for the Memorial Bench is \$455.

Jim mcintosh

Note: I reported that the amount to Thunder Rode was \$410. This was made up of our check for \$390 and another check through us to Thunder Rode for \$20.00.

Addendum C
Contrasts between Potential Venues

	Lingonberry	Senior Center	Bethania
Location	Center of town, high visibility; High foot traffic gives us seven day a week on-street_(window) presence.	Off the beaten track; no foot traffic; no advantage	Low visibility; no advantage
Image	Modern. It's a center for musical, cultural and political activity, which would associate us with an upbeat, young, progressive vibe	A place for old people, institutional in appearance, not inviting to younger people	Quaint, old, distinctly Christian
Meeting Space	Easy to meet sin a circle, distinctively democratic and allows us to see faces	Easy to meet sin a circle, distinctively democratic and allows us to see faces	Impossible to meet in a circle
UU Atmosphere	Neutral, but sidewalk visible UU sign 7 days per week	Neutral	Distinctly Christian symbolism
Access for persons with decreased mobility	Superior	Adequate (right angles, difficult doors, ramp make wheel chair or walker entrance difficult.)	<i>Dangerously poor.</i> Steep, narrow stairs & an unreliable elevator about which Vesterheim has been unresponsive.
Kitchen	Small, same level, to be installed soon.	Small Kitchen accessed by a ramp.	Good

We need to attract younger members to remain a healthy organization. We must be safe and convenient for all members.

Addendum D

Dear board members and Otter,

First, my apologies if I've misaddressed this email. I was assuming that those who were involved in the recent email exchanges about Annual Meeting constituted the current board, but if I've included/excluded someone I shouldn't have, please ignore or forward as appropriate!

Second, the main point of my email: We have two opportunities for our congregation this coming July.

1. Although we will be on our summer schedule, meeting every other Sunday, I would like us to have a special service on July 15--a Sunday we would normally be off. Sharon Dittmar of the MidWest America staff (see her bio on this page: <https://www.midamericauua.org/about-us/staff>) will be in town for the MidWest Leadership School and has indicated she'd be delighted to preach at a service that date. I feel we would be

remiss not to take advantage of her presence as well as that of other UUs who will be in Decorah for the Leadership School. What needs to happen in order for this special service to be possible? I'm assuming we would at a minimum have to secure a venue. I'd be happy to lead music if Otter is unavailable that Sunday. Please advise. Thanks!

2. Speaking of the MidWest Leadership School, has the board given any thought regarding having one or more Decorah UU members participate? Carol Hagen, who worked to coordinate volunteers to help with the school last year noted,

It's really a missed opportunity NOT to send someone from Decorah UU. Could be a great investment in our Fellowship, our future. Perhaps someone would embrace the opportunity. Can't hurt to ask/invite, especially if it is framed as an opportunity for growth in leadership skill. And maybe the expectation could be something like, that person will accept a nomination to our UU board within 3 years. Might be all in the framing -- an opportunity vs an obligation.

I'd add that it would totally make sense if someone already on the board were to go.

If we are interested, the registration deadline is 6/1. Congregations always pay a congregational fee "as a sign of support for the participant's leadership development" (per the website). The congregational fee for 1 adult is \$600 (with an extra \$100 for each additional participant). The student's tuition is \$590 per participant. The congregation may choose to pay part or all of the tuition in addition to the congregational fee. (See <https://www.mwls.org/mwls/adult-fees> for more details.) So the school would definitely be an investment, and I know we have a limited budget. Still, if our hope is to thrive as a congregation, we need skilled leaders to do so. Therefore, I thought it was important to ensure this opportunity is on the board's radar. Up to y'all to decide whether to pursue. (Note: I am not asking about this because I'd like to go to the school myself; I will actually be out of town that week starting Sunday evening.)

Many thanks for all that you do to keep our congregation vital!

Best wishes,
Karen