

First Unitarian Society Board of Trustees Meeting – January 23, 2013

Present: Bruce Nelson, Polly Peterson, Scott Eller, Heather Morse, Jim Leighton, Mary Ann Lundquist, Madalyn Cioci, JD Rickard, Miles Iles, Rev Pam Allen-Thompson Absent: Martha Hardesty

Appreciations:

The FUS staff enjoyed the Staff Appreciation luncheon and invites board members to consider inviting individual staff members to meet one-on-one over a meal.

The Board appreciated the Sunday Forum and Assembly on Reproductive Justice.

The Board appreciates Chris Bubser and his team's continuing efforts on the stair rail project, which is almost done making our children safer.

December Minutes: Polly passed out paper copies of the board minutes. She will work with Morgan to get the minutes posted on the FUS Website and will email December's minutes to the board

Financial Reports (on file)

Mary Ann reported to the UUA that FUS has 317 members and 96 registered RE students.

The Budget and pledge revenue: FUS did reasonably well in December meeting our goal for the month, but still being \$10,600 behind in the fiscal year. So far we have received \$24,000 of the \$30,000 budgeted for January and will likely get another \$2-3,000 by the end of the month. Expenses look fine except that Building and Grounds is skewed because of problems with the boiler. We got a few hundred dollars back because of problems with Gilbert repairs that did not prevent further breakdowns. The committee had already begun a process of reevaluating the HVAC contract.

Mary Ann reports that the budget letter should go out to committees soon and it is time to appoint and get the Budget Committee together. Bruce and Mary Ann will work together to write a letter to the member who made a special contribution to help towards catching revenues up to the budget projection. Mary Ann again thanks Allison for doing a great job.

Jim asked about the money in designated funds. Mary Ann reported that it is in the Schwab Money Market account earning minimal interest. Occasionally Mary Ann moves some of the funds into short term certificates of deposit. A question about the possibility of doing micro loans with some of those funds required a study of the bylaws and board policy.

The Minister's Report (on file)

Bruce commended Rev Pam on another excellent report. She had three things to add to the report

- She did a mock interview with the Search Committee to help them formulate the interview questions for their final candidates and gave them feedback on the questions.
- The staff meeting that happened today (Jan 23) was excellent with lots of cohesion and collaboration around the website project and returning to a common newsletter.
- A group of board and personnel members will meet tomorrow night to discuss replacing Laney.

Midyear Program Committee – They have been working on spring programs.

Clarity of Purpose Statement – The board appreciates the work of the task force. They hope to use the statement on the Order of Service, the FUS website, in the search process and with Molly's Liberal Parenting events. The board

discussed other ways of promoting it: posting it at FUS, creating a banner, putting it up in the elevator and every room, incorporating it into RE, encouraging people to put it up on their refrigerators. We would like to get input from B&G for a quality, tasteful installations and enlist the Art Committee to design something around it, (Bruce will talk to the Art Committee) incorporate it into the chalice lighting and creating a participatory event in the Lower Assembly Hall. Bruce suggested that Heather and Barbara W be enlisted to systematize how we incorporate the statement into the life of FUS.

Statement of Governance – Madalyn presented a draft statement of governance (on file) that the board approved so that it could be presented at the Leadership Meeting on Saturday and also passed on to the Search Committee for their discussions with candidates. We appreciate Madalyn’s fine work on this.

Mid-Year Appraisal – The board discussed the responses to the appraisal questions. JD will give the UUA feedback about the form itself. Board members are encouraged to give Rev Pam feedback as well.

Search Committee – The board discussed the search process and ways that we need to connect with the Search Committee. Mike will call Bill K to let him know the board’s discussion on the process.

Policy Book – Bruce and Mike roughed out some beginning policies to work on that came out of the audit report but they needs more work.

Service Auction – The board discussed the proposals that were submitted for the Service Auction as follows:

- Social Justice would like 50% of the net proceeds to split as follows: \$400 to the International Humanist and Ethical Union, then divide the rest equally among Protect Minnesota, Avenues for Homeless Youth, and the UUSC
- RE would like \$4000 for the youth Boston trip
- Seasonal Celebrations would like \$1,000 for its annual February event.

In addition, the Audio Visual Committee discussed getting new projectors for \$3000 and we discussed possible bid-a-need projects. It was moved, seconded and passed to accept the three proposals and consider an AV proposal if they will flush it out more and to put any proceeds beyond those projects towards the Dietrich Room Wall Project. Further that the board consider the bid-a-need projects at the next meeting. Scott will talk to Chris B about getting an update on the wall project and getting it moved. Heather M abstained from voting on this motion.

The **Governance Meeting** on Sunday will start at 9am.

Member Concerns - ??

Confluence – The board agreed that the Confluence should discuss the temporary membership staff position and the Dietrich quote that was used in a recent assembly.

Awards – Board members are encouraged to think about who should receive the Hand-on Humanism, Unsung UU and Dultgen awards and be ready to discuss them at the next meeting.

Meeting Evaluation – It was a little long, but included very important discussions. JD agreed to be a timekeeper at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 pm.

Reports: January Financial Reports, December Minutes, Minister’s Report, Statement of Governance, Mid year Appraisal.