

# First Unitarian Society Board of Trustees Meeting – March 27, 2013

Board Members present: Bruce Nelson, Mike Iles, Jim Leighton, Madalyn Cioci, Martha Hardesty, Polly Peterson, Scott Eller, J D Richart

## Appreciations – Board members appreciated:

- The executive Committee for the value to the board of the previous Sunday's Special meeting.
- Rev Pam for her leadership with the staff.
- The hard work of all the volunteers on the Service Auction, especially Marcie Lessler
- Everyone who attended the Service Auction for their very positive response to the Bid-a-Need items for the Youth Link Food Shelf and the Electrical Outlets on the Upper Assembly Hall platform.
- The building stewards for so quickly returning the Upper Assembly Hall to Sunday Morning readiness after the Service Auction.

**Consent Agenda-** The Wind Source topic was moved to Board Business. Minutes and Special Meeting letter were moved, seconded and passed without discussion.

## Reports & Discussion

### Financial Report –

**The Budget Process** was the same as last year. The committee met and asked FUS committees and staff to create a budget report tied to costs and goals. They were to send in written reports by Mar 13. The Budget committee looked at the reports and had a general budget meeting with committee chairs and staff and each had 5 minutes to present on their proposal. Caring Circles sent a request for the first time and Bob A sent one for Audio Visual needs. Unlike last year, Summer Assemblies was invited to submit a plan and budget. Polly advocated for support for denominational responsibilities with support from others at the meeting. People appreciated the process and there were very good reports from the committees.

- Wendy has a goal in Membership of adding 50 new members this year.
- Summer Assemblies wanted to make clear again that the summer minister's responsibility is for Sunday mornings only and that costs associated with other pastoral duties needs to come from some other part of the budget. There is a little bit of money left from last summer.
- Childcare – RE asked for an increase in child care as did Membership. RE would take over scheduling childcare for all FUS events if they received this increase.
- Audio Visual asked for \$500.
- Caring Circles asked for \$200 for mailings and cards and some transportation for committee members.
- Music – asked to have the orchestra conductor restored to the budget rather than funded by special collections.
- The Installation of the new minister should be budgeted at \$500- 3,000 per the UUA guidelines.

These increases would add \$50,000 to the current budget, so cannot all be fully funded.

**Pledge Revenue** – FUS is now at a negative variance by about \$24,000, which Mary Ann has never seen before. She is hoping to make up at least \$10,000 of that in the next few months. Two things are mitigating factors: FUS got \$10,000 to be applied to the budget by a member and with other one-time gifts we will add \$20,000 of one-time money.

Office expenses are down. Rev Pam has been encouraging people to watch print jobs launch to make sure that they are printing correctly. FUS saved salary with the one month of no Membership coordinator and on the Social Justice budget when Shannon was on maternity leave. She is planning to work over the summer to make up some of the hours, but much of that will be in a new budget year. FUS is doing better than the paperwork shows. With a lot of luck we could break even.

Why is pledge revenue down so much? Mike would like Allison to check the figures and formulas. Allison says March will come in close to expectations.

The Future is Now contribution this year will be higher than was budgeted.

Polly wondered if the new pledges are going into effect immediately or will start in July? Scott thought they would begin with the new Fiscal Year.

**Governance Task Force** – Everyone nominated has agreed to serve and they will have their first meeting on April 15. JD is working on scanning in the policy documents to have them in an electronic form.

The Governance Task Force charge as written by Madalyn was moved, seconded and passed. (on file) Madalyn would like the **Statement of Governance** approved at some point. The Task Force will look it over and send recommendations. They will take on the Personnel Committee's role and charge first.

**Stewardship** – Scott

The pledge drive is going on and will likely spill over into April. It is not going as well as hoped. 75% of members have not responded. There will be more individual calls made this weekend. They could use more help. Board members should talk up the drive to members of the congregation.

**Ministerial Search** – The board agreed to respect the committee's time table. Happily, the ministerial candidate was their first choice and FUS was the minister's first choice. A contract has been agreed to. The name of the candidate will be announced on Sunday.

**Communication Task Force** – the Communications Task Force believes that its job is done and now the board should adopt its recommendation or not. The board thanks the task force for its work which resulted in a clear document of what needs to be done. Heather moved that we adopt provisionally the Communications Committee recommendation over the summer and appoint a chief of staff for the summer until the minister is here.

The policies recommended out of the Audit Report will be put on the next month's agenda.

**Membership** – Wendy is interested in the board working on what becoming an FUS member means. In some periods of our history we did not have a membership book. The board agreed by consensus that people who were members before the book was used are grandfathered in as members without having signed the book.

**Minister's report** – She is working hard with the staff. She would like to be sure that the Personnel Committee is in communication with the board on issues that they are working on.

**Board Business** –

The board moved seconded and passed who should get the Dultgen Award.

**Member Concerns** – The discussion that continues being very active on the Exchange and other forums is our humanist identity. There is a variation of belief and practice among our members that we all want to respect.

**Wind Source** – The board moved, seconded and passed a motion to have a special collection on April 21 to support FUS's continued enrollment in Wind Source for its electricity needs.

**Thinking Ahead** –

Budget approval is due at the next meeting. Mike suggested that the board have a special meeting to discuss the budget and all decided to meet on April 14 after the congregational meeting.

The board meeting was adjourned.

Polly Peterson

Secretary, FUS Board of Trustees