

FUS Board of Trustees Meeting September 25, 2013 Minutes

Trustees in attendance: Mike Illes, Bruce Nelson, Heather Morse, Martha Hardesty, Scott Eller, JD Rickard, Sue Tinchler.

Others in attendance: Rev. David Breeden, Allan Callander, ministerial interns Jean Olson, & Laura Thompson.

Trustees absent: Madalyn Cioci & Polly Peterson

Meeting called to order at 6:31 PM.

Announcements / Appreciations: Food committee that did a wonderful job serving 170 at the September 22 equinox lunch, thanks to Barb for preparing dinner.

Discussion

August Financials (Allan):

- Service Auction – Designated Funds line 52 has \$10,268 that needs to be identified for what specific projects the money was allocated. Allan will prepare a summary for next meeting.
- Allan will be preparing a monthly or quarterly summary report of (1) the aggregated pledge income from new (one year and less) members, and (2) the percentage of FUS members using auto-pay/direct debit for pledges.

The Membership committee reports that a new picture directory is being planned for the spring.

Governance task force (GTF) report - JD reported that dates for the Governance & Ministry congregational information sessions will be Oct. 27, Nov.17, Feb. 23 & April 13. Board members will be scheduled to facilitate, record, and attend each session. The GTF is drafting policy statements to be in a uniform format.

Planning for reviewing Wendy's Membership Coordinator position, as her contract is set to expire at the end of 2013. Mike will be working work with David, the Membership committee, and Wendy to reach agreement on the position continuation as soon as possible.

On the new minister installation project Martha reported an event planning task force has been formed, and that the event will happen about April 27.

Regarding the August 24 Leadership Meeting, Allan will distribute a spreadsheet of the key event dates identified at the meeting. Madalyn will follow up with Shelly S. and George H. to obtain the complete meeting notes.

Consultant to observe/report on FUS interracial culture. There is interest in Fred Olson's acquaintance performing this activity. However, there were questions about the project's goals & outcomes.

Board actions:

The consent agenda was approved:

- Approval of August Board meeting minutes
- Approval of Ministerial Advisory Team: Beth Gohdes, Bill Karns, Wanda McCaa, Elliot Saxton, Annetta Cepak, and Jean Toll
- Approval of Intern Advisory Team: Jim Tincher, Corey Devor, & Gretchen Clemence

The following new members were recognized: Annetta Cepak & Marc Johnson

David's Program Initiative proposal was presented. It is proposed that experienced small Group Ministries consultant Jim Foti will be contracted to form FUS "chalice circle" groups. Goal is at the end of the program year a majority of the congregation will know about the small groups concept, ten percent of the congregation will be participating, and at least six small groups will be functioning. It is planned that an application will be made to MidAmerica Region UUA for Chalice Lighter's grant that would double Jim's the time on the project. A motion was passed to allocate \$7,000 from the current year budgeted Program Initiative to contract with Jim Foti. It was noted that a letter of agreement will suffice for this contract. Intern Jean Olson will assist with this project, as she has small group ministry experience.

Motion passed to approve our two ministerial interns Jean Olson, & Laura Thompson to officiate at weddings in Minnesota for as long as they are UU ministry interns at FUS.

Human Resources audit. Scott reported a colleague who will do the HR audit for no cost. It is a consensus of the Board that Scott's colleague should go ahead with this review.

The ordination of former FUS intern Tim Barger will take place Sunday, Dec. 8, at the First Unitarian Church of Toledo, OH. A letter from Tim to David requests that FUS provide financial sponsorship for this event. Board members expressed much respect for Tim as strong advocate for humanism, a position he has successfully defended elsewhere. For this and other reasons a motion was passed to allocate \$500 from Board operating reserves to sponsor Tim's ordination. Martha will prepare a letter to be sent to Tim with the intent that it be read at the ordination.

The matter of the FUS Foundation's tax-exempt status being revoked was explained and discussed. A motion was passed to approve the Foundation Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement between the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis and the Foundation of First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis. The letter to FUS members was reviewed. The Board's editorial suggestions will be forwarded by Sue to Leif Carlson for preparation and distribution.

Thinking Ahead

The Start Up Meeting/Midwest Region Resources workshop will be held October 13th. Mike will work out details with Phillip Lund, the to MidAmerica Region UUA program facilitator. All Board members should plan to attend.

To Do

- Bruce to invite Chris Bubser to next meeting for report on Dietrich doors.
- Scott to initiate the HR audit.
- Martha to prepare a letter for Tim Barger ordination.
- Madalyn to obtain Leadership meeting notes.
- Allan to prepare pledge reports.
- Sue to convey edits on Foundation letter to Leif Carlson.
- Mike & David to work on Membership Coordinator position.
- Madalyn will relay the Board's questions about interracial culture project to Fred Olson.

Meeting adjourned 8:31.

Respectfully submitted
Bruce Nelson

Approved by the Board on 10/23/13