

## **First Unitarian Society Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes December 18, 2013**

Trustees in attendance: Mike Illes, Bruce Nelson, Polly Peterson, Scott Eller, Madalyn Cioci, JD Rickard, & Sue Tincher, Martha Hardesty, and (briefly) Heather Morse  
Others in attendance: Rev. David Breeden and treasurer Allan Callander.

Meeting called to order at 6:31PM.

Announcements / Appreciations: Thanks to Barb Watts for preparing dinner tonight, the Alliance for a great Holiday Temptation sale, the "new look" music Sunday service in which the music was integrated with the service as well as music, and to Jim Fotifor a superb report on the Chalice Circles.

The FUS Board Covenant was reviewed.

Notes from the Minister's Installation task force and Building & Grounds task team were distributed.

### **Discussion items:**

Strategic planning discussion –The Feb. 23 Forum will include a writing exercise of what attendees think FUS would be 20 years from now. The Leadership Meeting will be Saturday, January 25, and include calendar coordination, information on the upcoming budget planning process, and a strategic planning session - so there will be a plan for the upcoming budget planning.

Big idea brainstorming: What should FUS do to meet our purpose statement? What is the strategy? What is the thing that we will be known for in the community? Ideas contributed: Honoring GLBT community and individuals. Social action. Asking questions that others don't. Architecture of the FUS building. The way we embrace the arts. Grassroots humanism. A warm & genuine feeling on Sundays - an obligation to do something with this feeling –a need to harness these feelings. That FUS has the best seasonal celebration in the Twin Cities. Humanizing the culture (of the community). A home for those who have rejected theistic religions (the growing segment of "the nones").

Treasurer Report -- Insurance policy being reviewed specifically regarding the value of the FUS property and building. The Child Garden lease is up for renewal in June. Allan recommended consolidation of various designated and restricted funds (see below).

### **Board actions:**

The Consent Agenda items were approved:

- Minutes of the November Board of Trustees meeting
- Appointment of Dodd Wilson to the Governance Task Force (GTF)

One new member is recognized: Patricia Anderson

Consolidation of Designated Funds: Motion passed to move amounts from Dedicated Funds lines 52 (Service Auction, \$5,000), 66 (\$5,000), and 91 (Board Operating Reserves, \$14,600) to line 50 (Capital Campaign).

Consolidation of Restricted Funds: Motion passed to move amounts from Restricted Funds lines 43 (History, \$1,237.53), 54 (Church Walk, \$2,106.73) to Dedicated Funds line 50 (Capital Campaign), and move Restricted Funds line 60 (Humanist Ctr., \$1,473.78) to designated fund line 75 (which is renamed from Search Committee to Minister Installation).

Motion passed to spend remaining amount in the line 57 of the annual budget (Program Initiative) to be given to Student Ministerial Intern Jean Olson as an honorarium.

Motion passed to move \$1,500 from Designated Fund line 91 (Board operating reserve) to contract with Mathew Crockett to create a new FUS logo and develop an FUS media campaign plan.

Motion passed to allocate \$400 for gift certificates from the wedge coop to accompany Board of Trustees' holiday greetings to FUS staff. Source will be \$100 from line 20 of the annual budget (Board miscellaneous expense) and \$300 from Designated Fund line 91 (Board operating reserve).

### **Task List:**

The executive committee will schedule and send notice for Leadership meeting on Jan. 25. Mike will speak with George H. about this.

Allan & David will prepare a proposal for paying for ministry during David's vacation.

HR oversight audit review: Heather & Scott will submit a report for January

The new staffing task force will organize in January to assist David on upcoming staffing issues

Bruce to obtain Wedge gift certificates, print greeting cards (two in Spanish), and deliver to David for delivery at the staff meeting next Monday.

Madalyn will follow up with Will to establish a regular publication schedule for the Confluence.

### **Thinking ahead:**

- Madalyn raised the issue of needing to start a process for evaluation of the Minister and to ensure that staff evaluations would happen. In light of the fact that the GTF hasn't yet proposed a policy for this process, it was suggested that the Board appoint a task force for this year's effort.
- Next Confluence edition: Jan's retirement, Wendy's continuation as Membership Director, Dietrich doors, thanking Maryann for her service and welcoming Allan as Treasurer.
- B&G task group recommendations for prioritizing capitol projects.
- Annual meeting May 14. A task force to be appointed.
- Board discussion with membership: February (strategy) and April (budget)
- Awards -- do we want to identify a method to solicit congregational recommendations?
- Leadership team meeting Jan. 25

Meeting adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bruce Nelson, Secretary

Approved by the Board of Trustees 1/22/14