

First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2016

I. Call to order

Mike Illes called to order the regular meeting of the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis Board of Trustees at 6:04 p.m. on January 27, 2016 in the Frank Lloyd Wright Room.

II. Roll call

The following were present: Mike Illes (chair), Scott Eller (vice chair), Allan Callander (treasurer), Sue Tincher (secretary), Phil Duran, Scott Eller, Katrina Lassegard, Joyce Riedesel, Nick Rowse, Rev. David Breeden, and Assistant Minister Jim Foti.

III. Announcements/Appreciations

The office volunteers who prepared the all-congregation mailing were appreciated. The high school kids who put on the Boston-fundraising brunch were appreciated for doing a great job.

IV. Consent agenda

Phil Duran moved to approve the consent agenda, and Allan Callander seconded. The motion passed to approve the consent agenda, including:

- Minutes of the November Board of Trustees meeting
- Recognition of new FUS members: Erin Lauderman, Nick Mason, Mitchel Pothen, Nacole Kaai

V. Reports and Discussion

a) **Treasurer's Report/December Financials:** Allan reported that December revenue was \$72,300, or \$7,400 unfavorable to budget, and expenses were \$53,800, or \$3,400 favorable to budget. The Finance Committee recommends we decrease our revenue expectation for the year by \$20,000, because it is likely that our deficit will be that large. In November the Audit Committee's final report had three recommendations: to establish a finance policy manual; to require the signature of two people when tallying cash proceeds; and to develop an inventory of major assets. Allan moved that we accept the findings of the Audit Committee from November 12, 2015 and implement their three recommendations. The motion carried. Allan said we currently do not have an external audit, but in the future we may want to institute an external review.

- b) Ministerial Team Report:** Rev. David Breeden and Assistant Minister Jim Foti reported that since Director of Congregational Life Wendy Reynolds is retiring in June, they will be thinking about ways to maintain the effectiveness of that position. Building steward Cirilo Hernandez was terminated and his duties have been picked up by the part-time stewards. Executive Session began at 6:33. It ended at 6:38. Thursday evening attendance has been light.
- c) Communications Committee:** Katrina Lassegard shared the results of the congregational survey on board communications. We received 88 survey responses. The communications committee will study the results and come up with a communications plan.
- d) Dietrich Commemoration Committee:** Phil reported on the meeting that was held on January 17. The year of commemoration may run November 1, 2016 (the hundredth-year anniversary of John Dietrich's arrival to FUS) to October 31, 2017. Nick Rowse found a bunch of documents at the Minnesota History Center relating to Dietrich. There might be a way to work with the History Center, or the Star Tribune, to expand the celebration beyond FUS. Having a big-name speaker was considered. We could add things to the Dietrich room that reflect Dietrich. We might have part of the service auction proceeds in 2017 go towards these efforts. Everyone was enthused.
- e) Capital Campaign Update:** We went to the sneak peak of the architectural plans given to the Building and Grounds Committee, the Aesthetics Committee, and the Board. Greg Giles introduced Ed Kodet, who shared the preliminary, conceptual plans for the updates to FUS. We have a great location that abuts both Thomas Lowry Park and the new Walker Sculpture Garden. It will be a phased project. Elements discussed included moving the elevator; making the Groveland entrance handicap-accessible; adding canopies over both entrances; and building restrooms on both levels.
- f) Draft Policies:** Allan introduced the Finance Policy Manual. He has been working on this with the past and present Finance Directors and the Finance Committee. It is in very good shape, but some of the attachments still need to be created. Mike introduced the Disruptive Behavior Policy created by the Governance Committee. It is a combination of some of the disruptive behavior policies of other UU churches and the FUS congregational covenant from 2008. Wendy Jerome and Ruth Agar have reviewed it and approved of it. Mike will make some changes to it based on the board conversation tonight, and send it around again next month.

VI. Board Business

- a) Member concerns:** It was brought up that meeting rooms are sometimes cold when people arrive to meetings. David will talk to Tim Roehl about instituting a system of turning up the heat in scheduled meeting rooms. It was brought up that it could be a major problem now that the Alliance is not catering funerals. Jim Foti is going to work on a creating a Memorial Team.
- b) Service Auction proposals:** Sue moved that of the service auction proceeds, 50% to go to Gibbons Fund for Ministerial Interns and 25% to Non-Violent Peace Force and 25% to Protect Minnesota. Katrina seconded. The motion passed. The Bid-a-Need will be decided by the Service Auction Committee
- c) Capital Campaign Resolution Wording:** Phil shared three different wordings of the Capital Campaign resolution. The board liked the simplicity of the first option, but also liked the inspiring reference to the “flagship of 21st-century humanism” in the second version. Mike melded the two into a revised first version. Sue moved that we use Version #1 (as edited) as the resolution. Joyce seconded. The motion carried.

VII. Thinking ahead:

- a) Upcoming dates:** Congregational vote: 2/21/16; Board Forum, 2/14/16; and Leadership Team Meeting 3/19/16.

VIII. Adjournment: Mike adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

IX. Action items:

- a)** The Communications Committee will prepare plan for board communications for Board Forum
- b)** Phil will work on next Dietrich Commemoration meeting.
- c)** Mike will talk to Service Auction and Building & Grounds committees about the service auction proceeds.
- d)** Sue will call the Ricoh sale rep, get more figures on the copier.
- e)** Mike will give the re-written resolution #1 to the Capital Campaign Steering Committee.

Minutes submitted by: Sue Tincher