

FUS Board of Trustees meeting DRAFT minutes

March 26, 2014

Board members in attendance: Mike Illes, Bruce Nelson, JD Rickard, Martha Hardesty, Polly Peterson, Sue Tincher and Allan Callander

Others in attendance: Rev. David Breeden, ministerial intern Laura Thompson

Meeting called to order at 6:31 PM.

Announcements & appreciations: A letter of appreciation was received from the Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness for the donation made on behalf of Mary Ann Lindquist's work as treasurer. Thanks to Marcy & crew of volunteers for the excellent Service Auction event. Thanks to Audrey & crew of volunteers for the excellent Equinox service on 3/16, especially the great music by the Eclectics. Thanks to Barb Watts for tonight's dinner. Thanks for the hard work of the Facilities Tenant task force.

The FUS Board Covenant was reviewed.

Discussion

Treasurer's report: The Service Auction had \$33,600 gross receipts – details will be reported at the next Board meeting. The Budget task force is working on the '14-'15 draft budget. A question has arisen as to whether the cost and benefits of all programs be completely reflected in the budget, or be intermingled with designated funds, as is now the case. Board discussion indicated support the former option, which would be more transparent.

Minister's report: The assistant minister position funded. David is working on staff contracts, some of which are very out of date. Staff evaluations have been completed and distribution of budgeted staff bonuses determined. Work on the new logo has slightly delayed because of the release of the (very similar) new UUA logo. A Yelp account is now active. A former member has been disbarred for violating the FUS Congregational Covenant. If members have questions they should speak with Rev. Breeden.

Personnel benefits: The FUS benefits are not consistent with UUA requirements. The Board discussion indicated that we should be moving toward a goal that FUS personnel health and retirement benefits equivalent for all for staff.

Minister installation: The many installation details are on schedule for the April 27th event.

Annual meeting: Preparations are underway for the May 14th event. The Letter to the Congregation will go out during the week of April 7th.

Facilities Tenant task force: Negotiations are proceeding with continuation of Child Garden's lease through August 30 or possibly Sept. 30. A preliminary assessment has been made of needed improvements to the spaces now occupied by Child Garden. There is a question of how much space should FUS consider leasing. George Hutchinson has reported that replacing Child Garden with a tenant other than a day care would certainly trigger a zoning and possible building code review, with associated requirement for off-street parking as well as a public hearing. Allan is in contact with a leasing agent for the space (see (Board

Business).

Capital improvements: It was asserted that there needs to be a clear long term capital plan and budget before funding is sought. The pros and cons of a capital campaign vs. a mortgage on the building were discussed. Funds have been secured (from the Service Auction) for consultants to inspect the upper auditorium ceiling support structure and roof covering in preparation for an eventual solar installation and a lighting consultant for the upper auditorium. A preliminary estimate of less than \$5,000 (as yet unbudgeted) has been obtained for a study and design of air conditioning for the upper auditorium. Other parts of a detailed capital plan would likely require funding for professional design services.

Board Business

Motion passed approved the consent agenda: Minutes of the 2/26/14 Board of Trustees meeting.

Motion past that a special collection be taken on April 27th be for contribution to Meadville Lombard Theological School.

The following two new members were recognized: John Martino and Jennifer Langer.

Motion passed to negotiate and sign an agreement with KWC Midwest as a leasing agent for a portion of the spaces now occupied by Child Garden.

Motion passed to submit the Bylaw amendments (attached) for vote at the Annual Meeting.

Task List

Allan will prepare scenarios for the April meeting of various capitol financing options.

Madalyn will work with Martha to prepare the Minister evaluation for next Board meeting.

Mike & Madalyn will bring near final draft of the Board annual report for next Board meeting.

Board members will be present at the April 13 Forum for the budget discussion. The Budget task force will have a final budget available for approval at the April Board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Nelson, Secretary

Approved by the Board of Trustees 4/23/14