

# First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis

## Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

July 22, 2015

### I. Call to order

Scott Eller called to order the regular meeting of the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis Board of Trustees at 6:25 p.m. on July 22, 2015 in the Dietrich Room.

### II. Roll call

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

### III. Announcements/Appreciations

The good work done during Community Service Sunday was appreciated. The full Sunday morning schedules this summer were appreciated.

### IV. Consent agenda

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

- Minutes of the June Board of Trustees meeting.
- Recognition of new FUS members Patricia Saunders, Emily Richardson, and Erik Richardson.

### V. Reports and Discussion

**a) Journey Mapping Report:** Jim and Sue Tincher reported on the journey mapping study of Unitarian church seekers. Jim shared the results of the three focus groups and talked about the themes and recommendations that resulted. The primary themes were: Sundays are critical, introverts need help to find their niche, and we seem to do better with those from other faiths. The recommendations were: Sunday morning – look at small tweaks, help introverts connect, and focus more on the true seekers.

**b) Treasurer's Report/June Financials:** Treasurer Allan Callander reported that pledge revenue was \$29,000 short for the fiscal year ending on June 30. Expenses for the month were at budget, and \$27,000 over budget for the year. The final deficit for the fiscal year was \$8,900. We transferred about \$4,000 out of designated funds, bringing the total designated fund draw-down to close to what we had planned at the beginning of the year. Allan communicated that the Finance Committee feels that we were too optimistic about pledges last year, and

that this year is likely to be a repeat—with another deficit situation likely. There was a discussion about having a trigger point—that is, if we are a certain amount behind budget at a certain date, a contingency plan would kick in, with austerity measures or something similar. The Finance Committee also feels we need to find a way to improve communications between the Congregational Life, Finance, and Stewardship Committees so that it is understood when people are in times of financial hardship. Allan said that 6-7% shrinkage (that is, pledges that remain unpaid) could reasonably be expected next year, based on past experience. If we were to experience 6-7% shrinkage next year, it would mean a hit of about \$40,000.

- c) **Minister's Report:** Rev. David Breeden reported that planning for next year is in full swing. Assistant Minister Jim Foti talked about the General Assembly session he attended, about the good practices of the Dallas church. They have a very clear-cut membership path, with twelve designated steps along the way. David says the new policy of staff purchases over \$500 being approved by him has been implemented.
- d) **Capital Campaign Task Force next steps:** Joyce Riedesel said they are starting to formulate the plan about the goals of the capital campaign. Chair Greg Giles is going to start conducting some interviews with some of the Society's larger givers to come up with a preliminary estimate of how much money we might be able to raise. The next meeting of CCTF will take place in August.

## VI. Board Business

- a) **Member concerns:** None voiced.
- b) **Board Retreat:** The Board retreat will be held from 1-5pm on August 2 at Allan Callander's house. There was some discussion of agenda. Items that were brought forward: talking about the journey mapping results; the capital campaign plans; and contingency plans if we run a budget deficit this year, including revenue-generating ideas that the board could sponsor. Another thing to think about is the Leadership Team meeting coming up in September. The retreat will be a potluck. Allan will send out an invite to everyone for people to sign up for food categories.
- c) **Meeting Evaluation:** It was a good, short meeting. We missed Board Chair Mike Illes, who was on a business trip to Omaha.
- d) **Adjournment:** Scott Eller adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Sue Tincher