

First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2015

I. Call to order

Mike Illes called to order the regular meeting of the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis Board of Trustees at 6:30 p.m. on September 23, 2015 in the Dietrich Room.

II. Roll call

The following persons were present: Mike Illes (chair), Allan Callander (treasurer), Sue Tincher (secretary), Holly Anderson, Phil Duran, Katrina Lassegard, Joyce Riedesel, Nick Rowse, Rev. David Breeden, Assistant Minister Jim Foti, Minister of Social Justice Kelli Clement, and Capital Campaign Task Force co-chairs Marc Johnson and Greg Giles.

III. Announcements/Appreciations

The volunteers at Roger Rydberg's memorial were appreciated for all their hard work. The new interim Director of Religious Education, Terri Coats, was appreciated. Kevin Jagoe was appreciated for his thorough and informative approach to greeting the other Sunday.

IV. Consent agenda

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

- Minutes of the August Board of Trustees meeting.
- Recognition of new FUS members Carrie Athanasselis, Allison Barnett, Mike Barnett, Rebecca Cramer, and Scott Cramer.

V. Reports and Discussion

- a) **Capital Campaign Task Force report and next steps:** Greg Giles and Marc Johnson were the Capital Campaign Task Force (CCTF) co-chairs. The CCTF has spent the last nine months gathering needs, visions, and wants and developing a set of recommendations to increase membership or programming scope. Their core recommendation is to implement the Capital Campaign with a goal of raising \$2 million, a difficult but not overoptimistic goal. The main improvements they recommend are: the entrance and Dietrich Room area; warm and welcoming spaces on the main floor; and an upgrade of the Upper Assembly Hall. Also, HVAC; walls, ceiling and floor coverings, windows and roof. The

next step will be to selectively form a Capital Campaign Steering Committee (CCSC). The CCTF recommends that if a loan is used to partially finance the improvements, there be a cap put on the loan in relation to the operating budget, with input from the Finance Committee. The Board thanked the members of the Capital Campaign Task Force for all of their hard work and their thoughtful recommendations. Allan Callander moved that we: accept the recommendations of the CCTF report as general guidelines for next steps; authorize the formation of a CCSC; appoint Greg Giles as its chair; request Greg Giles and Mike Illes to recommend a slate of candidates for the CCSC no later than October 27; formally disband the CCTF; and hold a congregational vote at a later date. Joyce Riedesel seconded the motion. The motion carried. Greg made the point that the launching of the campaign needs to be done very deliberately, and not started publicly before gaining sufficient seed pledges. But some things like the fact that we have hired the architect and that there will be a congregational vote can be shared now.

- b) **Treasurer's Report/August Financials:** Treasurer Allan Callander reported that pledge revenue and total revenue for the month were over budget at \$43,700 and total expenditures were under budget at \$50,400. Some of the pledge revenue was due to several large contributors paying all or most of their pledges for the year. Katrina Lassegard mentioned that the Stewardship Team will send out quarterly statements to all members. Allan reported that our Church Mutual insurance policy, which runs through 1/1/17, has been reviewed. We pay \$9,300 a year for the insurance, plus \$4,000 a year for workers' compensation insurance. He reports we are very adequately covered. We have finished negotiating two agreements with Novel Energy Solutions for a community solar garden—a partnership agreement and a subscriber agreement. We will help gather subscribers who would then be part of a UU Community Solar Garden. There are some remaining points to be ironed out before Allan will bring a motion to the Board next month, or perhaps request an electronic vote before then. Allan clarified that the member list of FUS will not be given to the solar company—people will have to opt in. Allan moved that the Board allow a potential electronic vote for this project if the information can be presented and discussed within the next two weeks. Katrina seconded. The motion passed.
- c) **Minister's Report:** Rev. David Breeden reported that we now have 465 members. Other items of interest are that: the electronic signage is getting close to where we want it; two large memorials were done this month; and we are averaging 200 adults in assembly since Labor Day. The staff is coming together with Terri Coates as the interim DRE. Jim Foti reported that he is creating a list of memorial volunteers.

- d) Leadership Team Meeting:** The Leadership Team Meeting will be Saturday, October 3 from 9:00 to 11:00am. On the agenda: update on the capital campaign, the governance work and a minister update; and calendar sharing.
- e) Minister Evaluation/Recommendations:** The survey of the congregational leaders, board, and staff is complete. David got very high marks overall. The Governance Committee shared three minor recommendations. David and Mike met and agreed to the review. Offering feedback to the minister in this manner is a new initiative of the Governance Committee.

VI. Board Business

- a) Member concerns:** There was a concern regarding DRE Melanie Willett's email to parents in regards to her leaving. It might be worth it to track RE attendance to see if members drop off in displeasure over her leaving. There was a question about how we decide on the message on the sign at the Groveland entrance. The answer was that the staff does this. It was brought up that everyone should spread the word about the Retreat to the Woods.
- b) Upcoming board calendar:** We will do some board discernment next month. The Governance Committee will be working on the Grievance policy.
- c) Adjournment:** Mike Illes adjourned the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Sue Tincer