

First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

October 28, 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 October 28, 2015 in the Dietrich Room.

II. Roll call

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

III. Announcements/Appreciations

We read the nice letter from the Manning family appreciating director of facilities Tim Roehl for his help during their memorial service.

IV. Consent agenda

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

- Minutes of the September Board of Trustees meeting
- Minutes of the Special Board meeting of October 11 (electronic vote on solar garden)
- Recognition of new FUS members: Mikki Morrissette, Thomas Foley, Cassandra Chancellor, Beth Mason

V. Reports and Discussion

- a) **Treasurer's Report/September Financials:** Treasurer Allan Callander reported that pledge revenue was \$6,000 below budget this month. Our total revenue for the month was \$46,000 and our expenses were \$63,400, resulting in a \$17,400 deficit for the month. The fiscal year-to-date deficit is \$5,900. The Finance Committee met recently and they recommend extreme caution with regards to expenditures. Rev. David Breeden already has measures in place to control large expenses. Depending on how October's expenses go, we may need to do a mid-term adjustment. The quarterly pledge statements are going out this week, which will hopefully result in some back pledges being submitted. The elevator repair and dumbwaiter decommissioning this month did not add to the deficit, as that expense came out of building reserves. The repair of the Groveland entrance did add to the deficit, as that came out of the building maintenance budget. Our

building rental revenue has been above the goal for the past three months since Tim was hired. The installation of LED lights has created the lowest electric bill in years. The Stewardship team is meeting next week, and may recommend establishing a calling team to contact those significantly behind in their pledges. The Bookstore is considering a new point-of-sale system for \$2,000 total. While the Board had reservations, it recognizes that the decision lies with the Bookstore committee. We also are very appreciative of all the volunteer hours that bookstore volunteers have put in. Phil moved that the Board authorize the bookstore committee to make the purchase on the condition that future expenses associated with the system will come out of their funds, including but not limited to maintenance, upgrades and any fraud charges. Joyce seconded. The motion carried. We had a discussion of the solar garden project, which was approved by email vote earlier this month—there is a general feeling of excitement about it.

- b) Minister's Report:** David reported that we consistently have 180 adults in Sunday assemblies, plus 20-odd others in the building, for a total of 200 Sunday attendance. We have 99 children registered in Religious Education (RE), with an average of 77 weekly attendance. David and financial director Allison Stevens developed an administrative policy to help program staff navigate the budget process. David encouraged board members to attend new member breakfasts—the next one will be Sunday, November 8 at 9:30am. Assistant Minister Jim Foti talked about the “Sunday Postgame” meeting the ministers are using to evaluate each Sunday morning experience. The Service Fair for the kids, organized by acting director of religious education Terrie Coats, was a big hit.
- c) Capital Campaign Structure and Members:** There will be three teams on the Capital Campaign—the fundraising team, the project management team, and the communications team. They will all report to the overarching steering committee. Proposed members have already been recruited by Greg Giles and Mike Illes to lead and fill each team. Phil moved approval of the list of members, including those who are identified as “considering.” Scott Eller seconded. The motion carried. Allan moved that we allocate \$8,500 from the capital campaign fund to be used for eight additional hours per week of Tim Roehl’s time through the end of the fiscal year for his work on the Capital Campaign. Joyce seconded. The motion carried.
- d) Governance update:** Sue Tincher and Mike Illes reported on the Governance Committee. Things they are working on include the grievance policy (procedure for airing grievances against the board or ministers), cleaning up old policies, disruptive behavior policy, leadership development/nominations committee, and committee processes.

e) **Board discernment exercise:** Mike asked the question: How does the Board view our relationship to the Capital Campaign Committee playing out? Opinions expressed were: We would like to see some kind of monthly report from the Capital Campaign Committee and put it on the agenda each month. It would be nice to see the minutes of the steering committee. We would like to see whatever deliverables are developed before they are presented to the congregation for the congregational vote. The Board feels our role will include showing excitement for the campaign. We need to talk about how we want to communicate our position as a board. Mike will bring this discussion back to Capital Campaign chair Greg Giles. We will expect a visit from Greg from time to time to give us an in-person update on the campaign.

VI. **Board Business**

f) **Member concerns:** It was brought up that the social hour mini-meals are getting so popular that we may need to offer more food. Everyone agreed this was a good idea, if it could be done in such a way as to not create too much more work for the volunteers.

g) **Board Forum:** In the forum this Sunday we will be talking about the projects we have been working on in recent months. All Board members should try to attend.

a) **Adjournment:** Mike Illes adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Sue Tinch