

First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2014

I. Call to order

Mike Illes called to order the regular meeting of the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis Board of Trustees at 6:25 p.m. on November 19, 2014 in the Dietrich Room.

II. Roll call

The following persons were present: Allan Callander (treasurer), Madalyn Cioci, Scott Eller, Martha Hardesty (vice-chair), Mike Illes (chair), JD Rickard, Joyce Riedesel, Nick Rowse, Sue Tincher (secretary), and Rev. David Breeden.

III. Announcements/Appreciations

Bruce Nelson was appreciated for all the work he has done over the past two weeks. He saved us two visits from Gilbert Mechanical, and fixed the donated snow blower. Allison was appreciated for her good, professional work with the annual audit. The sign language interpreters were appreciated for providing the beautiful sign language every Sunday without fail.

IV. Consent agenda

Madalyn moved to approve the consent agenda, and Martha seconded. The motion passed to approve the consent agenda, including:

- Minutes of the 10/22/14 Board of Trustees meeting.
- Recognition of new FUS members Dave Bauer, Jim Egan, Steve Lindeman, and Laura Butterbaugh.

V. Discussion

a) Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Allan Callander reported that pledge revenue has substantially improved. We received \$40,800 in pledge revenue last month. Total revenue for the month of October was \$58,700 and expenses were \$48,400. As a result of the stewardship calling campaign last month, we now have 170 pledging units, out of a potential 250. Pledges for year are \$327,000. The goal for the year is \$450,000. Allan also tracks what he calls "pseudo-pledges," money that comes in regularly from people who have not filled out a pledge form. There was a discussion about how to conduct stewardship campaigns--whether to have a big annual pledge drive or have a low-level ongoing ask. For this year, we will have a pledge drive in February or March. Allan shared the Audit Committee report,

which found no problems with the financial books, but which offered suggestions for process improvements. All of the suggestions of the Audit Committee are being addressed. Allan reminded us to get initialed approval on expense submissions. Madalyn Cioci moved that we accept and approve the findings of the Audit Committee and agree with their recommendations and we task the minister and the finance director with implementation. Nick Rowse seconded. The motion carried.

- b) Minister's Report:** Minister David Breeden said that he is working on a template for staff to use for their monthly reports. He mentioned that a long-time member couple who cannot come on Sunday mornings, but who have been coming to Connect and Reflect, gave a substantial contribution. Jim's call for congregational caring had a great response. David spoke to the Minneapolis City Council last night in favor of affordable housing. We collected \$1,400 for Second Harvest last Sunday during the second collection. RE attendance is bouncing between 50 and 80 kids per Sunday. We are going to have kids reading poems from the front once a month. He says we need to think about an aesthetics committee. Staff tracking of hours worked is still a concern. He has not gotten enough interest in child care as yet to offer it on Thursday evenings. Music Director Barb Brooks has a bunch of sabbatical built up. She is interested in taking a one-month sabbatical during the summer, which would be a good idea. David is going to the Humanist Institute meeting in early December. RE Director Melanie Willett will do the Christmas Eve service.
- c) Building Manager/Rental Coordinator Proposal:** There was a meeting of staff and volunteers to discuss creating a building manager/rental coordinator staff role, which Mike and Allan attended. The feeling was that this position was needed in order to make things run more smoothly and to ensure that the building is maintained properly. This would include re-negotiating rental rates on a number of meetings. Allan moved that we approve the position of building manager/rental coordinator in principle, and authorize David and the staff to fine-tune the job description and proceed to plan and hire an appropriate individual, subject to a limit on wages of \$25/hour and 30 hours/week. Joyce Riedesel seconded it. The motion carried.
- d) Congregational Awards:** We will present the Unsung UU Award on the second Sunday in December. Martha will do the research on the recipient, prepare the certificate, and make sure the recipient will be here that day.

VI. Board Business

- a) Member concerns:** The question of whether we need to revisit our emergency preparedness was brought up. A member mentioned that 2016 is the hundredth

anniversary of when John Dietrich arrived at FUS, and thought we should have some commemorative activity in 2016. It was thought that this should be put into the strategic plan. Someone brought up that the scent-free seating is no longer scent-free. David will get this fixed. Someone was concerned that there have been a lot of bikes locked to the hand rails at the Groveland entrance. We should get a bike rack for that entrance. We will take this to Buildings and Grounds.

- b) Vote on charge for Capital Campaign Task Force** We had a number of people express interest in being on this task force. J.D. Rickard moved to accept the slate: Mark Johnson, Greg Ramseth, Allan Callander, Joyce Riedesel, Bruce Nelson, Audrey Kingstrom, Greg Giles, Barbara Belew, and Theresa Zingery; and the charge as written in the draft proposal. Madalyn seconded. The motion passed. We will name the chair in the December meeting.
- c) Vote on Governance Documents.** Joyce moved that we accept the two policies for Strategy and Discernment as written. Nick seconded. The motion carried.
- d) Stewardship.** The Stewardship Committee will be meeting, and will be coming to the board with a recommendation for a pledge drive in February or March.
- e) Governance Task Force Transition.** The Governance Task Force is transitioning to the Governance Committee. The Task Force will have one more meeting.

VII. Adjournment

Mike Illes adjourned the meeting at 9:16 p.m.

VIII. Task list

- a)** Work with Finance Director Allison Stevens to implement recommendations of the Audit Committee—David.
- b)** Do research on Unsung UU recipient, prepare certificate, and ensure recipient will be at church on December 14—Martha.
- c)** Find a workable area to have Scent-Free Seating—David.
- d)** Bring to the Building and Grounds Committee the need for a bike rack at the Groveland entrance—Allan?

Minutes submitted by: Sue Tincher