

First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

November 18, 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 November 18, 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), Holly Anderson, Phil Duran, Katrina Lassegard, Joyce Riedesel, Rev. David Breeden, and Assistant Minister Jim Foti.

III. Announcements/Appreciations

Music Directors Jeff Stirling and Barb Brooks were appreciated for a great Music Sunday. Member Curt Dederich and Director of Facilities Tim Roehl were appreciated for a successful Blood Drive.

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 October Board of Trustees meeting
- Recognition of new FUS members: Cynthia Crawford, Debra Heins, John Lawson, Ethan Lewis, Linda Loveless, Rick Loveless, Lore Phillips, Brett Thompson, and Caroline Thompson

V. Reports and Discussion

- a) **Treasurer's Report/October Financials:** Treasurer Allan Callander reported that October revenue was \$36,600, or \$9,600 unfavorable to budget, and expenses were \$48,200, or \$3,500 favorable to budget. As of the end of October, our fiscal-year-to-date pledge revenue was \$1,000 unfavorable to budget while expenses were \$5,900 unfavorable to budget. One piece of very good news was that pledge statements went out at the end of October, and within two weeks \$25,000 in pledges were sent in. The biggest revenue problem is the "Non-Pledge Support" line item, which has not been close to the budgeted \$5,000 per month. We were very fortunate to obtain a new finance director, Shelli Hesselroth, very shortly after Allison Stevens announced she was leaving. Allan moved a statement of appreciation for Allison Stevens and approve a gift (\$100 Macy's gift card). Sue Tincher seconded. The motion passed. The audit

committee recently completed its report and found only small problems. Their recommendations are to establish a formal policies and procedures manual; to mandate that cash deposit envelopes have two signatures; and to develop a photographic and written inventory of major Society assets. Sue moved that we give each staff member a \$50 Solstice gift. Phil seconded. The motion passed. The solar garden community partner agreement has had two changes, both to our benefit. Allan moved that we authorize Mike to sign the amended version. Phil seconded. The motion passed.

- b) Minister's Report:** Rev. David Breeden reported that there were 226 adults in attendance at Music Sunday. The electronic signage is starting to work. Assistant Minister Jim Foti reports that we are transitioning to a bigger pastoral care congregation model where people are motivated to visit any FUS member in need, not just one of their own friends.
- c) Capital Campaign Update:** Mike said that the Capital Campaign Steering Committee is meeting bi-weekly and will share their minutes with the Board monthly. Architect Ed Kodet was pleased with the meeting he had with congregants. The Capital Campaign Communications team has begun meeting, and doesn't think they will be ready for a congregational vote on February 7, as originally wished. The Board discussed the timeline and felt that Greg Giles, the Capital Campaign chair, should give the communications committee expectations and deadlines so they are clear on their task. There was a discussion about the statement in the Capital Campaign Steering Committee minutes about the steering committee being the final decision-making authority for all projects, including those with fiduciary ramifications. The general feeling was that the Board bears the final responsibility for major decisions. There was a feeling that the Steering Committee should establish a firm timeline, including date of congregational vote, at their next meeting.
- d) Governance update:** Sue and Mike gave an update on the Governance committee. The committee has researched disruptive behavior policies and is preparing a proposed policy for FUS; has identified old policies that need to be reviewed and is preparing to go through them to recommend that they are either incorporated into the policy manual or decommissioned; and modified the Board covenant in accordance with the June Board discernment exercise. Allan moved that we accept the amended board covenant as discussed during the meeting tonight. Phil seconded. The motion passed.
- e) Twin Cities Trustee Day:** The larger congregations in town will meet on January 16 to talk governance. Unitarian Universalist Association Moderator Jim Key will be the guest of honor. All board members who are able should attend.

VI. Board Business

f) Member concerns: It was brought up that there was a new Game Room policy in place, and a concern that there was an undisclosed safety issue that had brought this on. In actuality, there is no current safety concern, the last matter having been resolved two years ago. There was a concern expressed about who is in charge of children's rights and issues in the congregation. The answer was that Religious Education is the home for this and that Acting Director of Religious Education Terrie Coats is the person to talk to. A member expressed that they were afraid we were growing too fast, and wished they still knew everyone on a first name basis.

g) Service Auction Proposals: We need to review service auction proposals next month. There was a discussion about the way the service auction was handled and a wish expressed that we got more proposals for who gets the proceeds.

a) Adjournment: Mike Illes adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

VII. Action items:

a) Staff gifts: Allan will get \$50 cash for each of the 11 staff members, Sue will get solstice cards for the Board to sign at the next Board meeting.

b) Service Auction: Scott and Mike will talk about the Service Auction.

c) Capital Campaign Steering Committee: Mike and Allan will bring back to the Steering Committee the Board discussion around responsibility for final decisions and the importance of establishing a timeline.

Minutes submitted by: Sue Tinch