

First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

December 28, 2016

1. Roll Call

- a. Allan Callender, Phil Duran, Barb Lutz, Shelley Shreffler, Sue Tincher, Holly Anderson, Katrina Lassegard, Joyce Riedesel, David Breeden, by phone: Jim Foti, Kelli Clement

2. Consent agenda passed

- a. The electric fireplace was present
- b. The agenda was approved as amended
- c. Minutes of the last meeting passed as were the minutes for the Special Meeting 12 04 2016

3. Information: Sanctuary - Kelli

- a. Kelli was on a MUUSJA call to get information in early December. There is a call for support based on our values. The purpose is to keep families together under the threat of deportation. IF we are collectively called to this work, it is to leverage our privilege, offering a safe space for an individual to work out their immigration challenge.
 - a. NOT a slam to Trump
 - b. NOT a publicity stunt
 - c. NOT a secret, not harboring, but public protection
 - d. NOT a great white hope.
- b. Some specifics:
 - a. would someone live in our building – might be difficult with ongoing construction; no shower/bath facility; other congregations may be better equipped at this time; but not impossible.
 - b. does our insurance allow/prohibit? Someone should read the entire policy. does our policy prevent having someone live onsite? could it be corrected w/a rider? – or can say have someone living here 24/7; don't have to tell insurance why they are there
 - c. Zoning not typically an issue, especially as we are in a residential neighborhood; First Universalist & other congregations housing homeless on temporary basis;
 - d. most important – churches, schools, congregations are considered to be sensitive locations – ICE & law enforcement will not usually enter; different if there is an active shooter; court of public opinion lots of media attention
 - e. would need to do asset mapping: asset mapping – language, legal, cooking, carpentry, etc. skills, not so many people asking the same questions
 - f. share meals, create community with intense sensitivity to needs of individual;
 - g. Will have to raise \$\$ but don't know how much. Our Jan special collection will go to sanctuary – destination for \$\$ TBA. Maybe UURISE or keep it in a growing fund at FUS
- c. What does sanctuary mean legally?

- d. Asset mapping of the congregations – what skills are available to aid sanctuary like language, carpentry, food. Our construction will be an issue, as will the Gaia students, and may make it necessary to partner with another congregation
- e. UURise will be a resource to us. UURISE provides affordable, trustworthy legal immigration counseling, representation and resettlement services to marginalized immigrants and refugees, and presents educational advocacy to the larger community.
- f. All downtown congregations are working together

4. Staff reports: David

- a. Super bad weather had negative affect on attendance. Christmas Eve service was good. Solstice was down some against previous years
- b. Jane will speak for the first time on Jan 1st
- c. Humanist Center – David has asked for a one-time grant from the Foundation for \$7,000. It will have nothing to do with FUS other than a physical mail address. The only staff affected by the Humanist Center will be David. The Foundation has asked for an opinion on the Humanist Center from the Trustees. The Board has no concerns.

5. Assistant Minister Report: Jim

- a. New members going well
- b. Men's support group is underway.

6. Treasurers report: Allan

- a. The monthly report: pledge revenue is down again. Total receipts are only 5% behind. Expenses are close to budget. The Finance Team met on the 19th. They have made significant changes to the Policy and Procedures. They have an ongoing concern over pledge revenue. The Stewardship Team has sent out a year to date statement to all pledging units.
- b. Allan moved, that the current Treasurer of this Board, Allan Callander, is fully authorized to conduct any transactions on behalf of the Society regarding the transfer or sale of securities received from any member or other organization. This authorization applies to accounts at Wells Fargo Shareholder Services, Charles Schwab, or Sunrise Banks. Second by Holly. Passed unanimously
- c. Insurance policy renewal. This is a standard 3-year renewal from Church Mutual. We are seeing a reduction in total cost.
- d. The Gaia lease. They have asked for a reduction of rent due to our construction. What type of a lease concession should we offer? Allan proposes 2 months forgiven at end of lease, a 10% reduction for the 4 months between now and summer. The second question is: do we want them to renew the lease?

7. Capital campaign report: Allan

- a. The Project Management Team met for the first time. They are working on the time line for the project. Demolition will begin in February. Meetings will be held with the stake holder groups January 15th after Assembly
- b. \$3.098 million committed to the Campaign. \$250,000 of the \$350,000 match has been met.

- c. Art Proposal: Jim. From the ministerial team. With major construction expected to start in just over a month, First Unitarian Society is facing decisions about numerous artworks that appear in shared spaces at FUS. The ministerial leadership proposes to convene an Artwork Committee consisting of the ministerial staff, the facilities director, and a member of the Aesthetics Team, to evaluate these artworks and eventually several others from a cross-functional, mission-based perspective. While there are many opinions and personal preferences among congregants about FUS artworks in shared spaces, individual feelings should not be the framework nor the primary factor. How the artworks support the mission, aspirations, functions, and aesthetic goals of the Society should be the key factors.
 - 1. There was much discussion of where the Aesthetics Team fits into these decisions. David is ready to take the bullet for hurt feelings among the congregation. Space and Place policy and the charge to the Aesthetics Team need to be looked at by the Governance Committee
- d. The chair of the 2017 Service Auction asked the relationship between the Service Auction and furnishings and fixtures for the Capital Campaign plan. The Board would like to see a new model in future

8. Future Events

- a. Next meeting is January 25th

9. Appreciations

- a. Shelley wishes to thank the volunteers and Dave Leussler who did the Dakota Wokiksuye Memorial Ride closing lunch
- b. Appreciate solstice volunteers

10. Member Concerns

- a. There is concern that Retreat to the Woods is no longer getting the support it had from the Board and Leadership

11. Meeting adjourned at 8:57