

First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis

Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting

Present: Barbara Weatherhead, Bruce Nelson, Mary Ann Lundquist, Dan Hunt, Lizz Hutchinson, Beth Gohdes, Adele Hansen, Kendyl Gibbons, Carol Koepp, Teresa West and Morgan Rock

Absent: Tim Palmquist, Ruth Agar

Barb called the meeting to order at 6:51 p.m.

I. Check-In

A. Announcements/Appreciation

B. Additions/Changes/Corrections to the Board agenda

II. Guest and/or Staff Address

A. Financial Report (Mary Ann)

- See attached report.
- Per Facilities Manager rental income is at yearly budget target as of 11-19-08.
- The Board noted that changes still need to be made to the budget to reflect changes made by the board to the fund categories. Mary Ann will communicate this to Bob.

B. Minister's Report

- It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously with no abstentions: that \$60 be moved from the Board Discretionary Fund to cover half of the cost of the flowers donated in honor of Tim Barger's mother's death on behalf of the congregation.

C. Staff Address: Carol Koepp, Social Justice Coordinator

- Things are going well in this new position. Carol particularly enjoys the opportunity to brainstorm with the staff and representing Unitarians and FUS at community meetings.
- Action on Project Homeless Connect and other housing initiatives are coming up.
- She organized a meeting with the PEACE Foundation youth program leaders and FUS to exploring ways FUS youth program could work on issues of race with one another.
- A discussion series on poverty is planned in the coming year.
- Kendyl noted that it's a huge success having this position as a part of the staff.

III. Board Business

A. Stewardship Concerns (Mary Ann)

- This is a problem that hasn't happened yet, but it is something we should plan for before it becomes a crisis.
- See Roger Clemence's memo.
- The board is willing to be helpful to the Stewardship committee and appreciates being informed about the skewed giving percentages in the congregation, and Stewardship's forecasting about the current and near-future situation.
- The board will defer payment to year's end instead of continuing quarterly payments to UUA and PSD.

B. Financial Report; Lines 91 & 92 (Mary Ann)

- Vanguard has gone through. Mary Ann and Barbara can sign for it. The board will be selling this fund to the Foundation for cash. There is no cost for doing this.
- The FUS Foundation is interested in working out the details of managing the funds in line items 91 and 92, but not in moving the funds until there is an economic recovery.

C. Unsung Heroes & Hands-on Humanism Awards (Ruth & Adele)

- Unsung Hero award will be given to Joyce Blomquist. Ruth and Adele will decide who will present and do the write-up for the Hands-on Humanism award for December 14.

D. Personnel Committee nominee: Richard Seurer

E. Reports from Board Task Groups

- Strategic Planning
 - Discussing process for quarterly Leadership Team Meetings, and budget and programming plans for the upcoming year earlier in the cycle (example: each November begin planning for the following program year).
- Music Plan: The plan is in action and on task.
- Congregational Policies and Procedures: in process
- Communications
 - Met on 11-16. Policies are needed. (Ruth and Barbara are working on and through this list.) Website re-do or refresh needed. More communication is needed among committee members and across committees using available vehicles, tools and resources (example: info available to staff and committees in between Leadership Team meetings). What are the tools some are using successfully and how can we help others do that? Morgan and Will will be meeting with publication staff from Unity, White Bear, and First Universalist tomorrow and will report on this at the next Communications Task Force meeting.
- Year round programming: Has not yet met again.
- Capital improvements: Has met. Notes not available at this time.
- Financial records: done with exception of tweaking by Mary Ann
- Budget: not met yet.
- Awards: Ruth and Adele will prepare the write up and decide on the presenter for December 14th recipient.

Teresa West requested that the board members meet the new members during social hour November 23 for a toast to welcome them.

BREAK

IV. Strategic Planning Discussion

Member Concerns: none.

Impact of financial shortfall on Strategic Plan/Programming

- More info from Stewardship is needed.
- Planned staff raises for next year may be difficult.
- It will impact programming.
- The first commitment will be to keep everybody working.
- Keep the planning going and when the cash flow improves it will be ready to go.
- If we can maintain where we are this year we'll be doing well.
- Kendyl's sermon of 11-9 was discussed as to how things would look for us to take care of each other during this financial downturn.

Dinners: December: Lizz; January: Beth; February: Bob

IV. Action Items

Approve minutes of October Board meeting: tabled until next month.

Approve new members (Bob)

- It was moved, seconded, and passed with no abstentions that the board approve the following people for membership at FUS: Chad Allen, Camille Burke, Pattie Dorf, Alyssa Kalmoe, Becky Monson, Ashley and BJ Siljeborg, Willis Unke, and Jenny and Deacon Warner.

Approve Personnel Committee nominee

- It was moved, seconded, and passed with no abstentions that the board appoint Richard Seurer to the Personnel Committee.

Approve Hopp-Hendrickson expenditure

- It was moved, seconded, and passed with no abstentions that the board approve the expenditure from the Hopp Hendrickson for \$840.00 as per the list on the proposal from Jan Devor.

V. Update on the Service Auction

- Co-chairs of the Service Auction are Alan Callandar and Barbara Weatherhead.
- Social Action and Membership are working on proposals.

VI. Meeting Wrap-Up

A. Trustee Tidbit & Meeting Evaluation

- Offer ways to respond on ways of how the community can support each other. Thinking about it and looking for ideas. (Morgan will write this up for the January newsletter.)
- Meeting evaluation: staff report should be ten minutes and be included on the agenda.
- Perhaps need a time keeper on the board – a rotating role. Next month Kendyl will model the role.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

VII. Executive Session * (Barbara)

Reports & Materials

- Meeting minutes 10-28-08 (Tim P.)
- Membership Report (Teresa/Bob)
- Minister report (Kendyl)
- Stewardship concerns
- Financial Statements (Bob)
- Hopp-Hendrickson request