

First Unitarian Church of Des Moines

Board of Trustees Minutes - DRAFT

Thursday, October 15, 2020

6:00 p.m.

In attendance (all via Zoom):

Board Members: Sue Huber, Mike Lauer, Patty Notch, Heidi Mannetter, Sarah Jensen, Scott Clair, Andrea LeMeuse, Greg Nichols, Fern Stewart, Rev. Amy Shaw

Staff: Charles Lewis, Director of Finance and Administration

Timekeeper: Greg Nichols

Process Observer: Mike Lauer

(Several church members also participated.)

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Board President Patty Notch. The chalice was presented and a reflection was provided. Check ins were made. Sue Huber, moved adoption of the agenda, and approval of the August Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Mike Lauer and adopted via voice mail vote.

Executive and Administrative Items

Rev. Shaw reviewed the Wednesday Programming Fall Kick Off activities and stated the official start for programming is October 7th. The ChUurch craft which combines Building Bridges and Minecraft has begun. There will be an online Sex Ed group called Taking Flight. COA will not meet as many parents and youth requested to wait until it could be offered in person. YRUU is doing social nights once a month as decided by the newly formed Youth Council. Children's Chapel has started led by Rev. Amy with songs performed by Nancy Bratt, with several new families participating. Sing and Play, the UU Way, the children's choir and theatrics group has started up on Wednesdays. Youth attending that will learn the songs for Children's Chapel and help shape how chapel will be run.

In addition, CUUPS is holding a weekly chat on Monday nights and beginning in November 5 will hold a book club reviewing the book, Hedge Druidry. Humanism and Sage have been meeting online, five Soul Matters groups are meeting and one Wellspring Group. Chalice Groups, which are small social groups, are forming to give people a chance to connect during COVID. Widening the Circle of Concern has begun to meet and Rev. Amy encouraged anyone interested to jump in now. A class on End of Life preferences and Trust Post-Truth book study has started. Rev. Amy has begun a study group on the Koran held on Friday nights. Trivia night, while lightly attended, proved to be a fun experience. Each Trivia night will highlight a Community Partner organization.

Rev. Shaw asked if there were any questions, concerns or thoughts. In response to questions regarding the recent Facebook ads, Rev. Amy stated she had created them. The Board was very complimentary of the ads. Questions also were presented regarding the why membership had been withdrawn, they will check on the numbers.

Financials and Dashboard

Charles Lewis submitted a written financial report. It is posted on the church website. Charlie reported a steady stream of conversation with members who had missed the communication about the switch from VANCO to PushPay with the realization they weren't meeting their pledge. These are getting caught up and we will see more of it in October. Questions arose regarding which funds would be used for the replacement of the two heat exchangers and he indicated most likely from the capital maintenance reserve fund. He explained the Director of Finance makes the decision regarding the

source of funds.

Charlie was thanked for the thorough Policy C: Financial Planning Executive Limitations reports that were provided.

Discussion/Decision Items

1. Board Committee Reports

Governance – has not met

Nominating Committee: Sue will provide information at the November Board meeting.

Financial Oversight – Barb Royal stated there were no big questions and that they were meeting monthly. She then addressed the Wake Now Our Vision funds that after discussions with UUA resulted in \$29,250 tagged for the Endowment Fund. The Financial Oversight Committee requested the Director of Finance to come fulfill the commitment by June 30, 2023, beginning this year or within the next two years. Rev. Amy noted it could not be part of this year's budget, but definitely into next budget cycle. The item will be discussed at the November or December meeting allowing Charlie time to provide the board with options.

Lens of the Future – Margaret Schultz stated they were collecting metrics twice a week and the numbers were not good, they were increasing. When asked about a small outdoor clean up of the church grounds and use of one bathroom, the Board, citing the Lens of the Future recommendations, determined it was not appropriate at this time. Patty Notch stated she had met with other midwest UU's and reviewed the metrics in place in Duluth.

2. Miscellaneous Updates

Leadership Committee – Rev. Amy stated the first meeting went well and the next meeting was scheduled for November 7. They will work on their charter, focus and assignments.

Widening the Circle of Concern – meets next Tuesday.

Wake Now our Vision/Fund Allocation/Budget – November agenda

3. From the Congregation

Faith Leader Statement on Racism (Karen Lauer) – The statement was reviewed. It was moved by Sarah Jensen to side and support the Faith Leadership Statement on Racism, seconded by Mike Lauer and adopted via voice mail vote.

4. Visioning/Big Ideas

How do we define membership? The Board discussed the socio-economic impact of membership. Rev. Amy shared a chart they and Lyra had been working on during zoom chats. Participation versus economic contributions recognizing the need that your skills are needed in the form of time, talent and treasure.

Pre-Annual meeting – Patty shared the use of a pre-annual meeting that other UU churches used to discuss the budget prior to the annual meeting. We currently hold several budget forums for questions and discussion, however it does not alleviate the same questions being asked and discussed at the annual meeting. Suggestions included if no participation in forum, then no discussion at the annual meeting. The desire was to allow the annual meeting to be an exchange of ideas and where we are going versus long, budget-centered discussions.

Susan Beaumont – 10 Questions – Patty suggested the ten questions be used as Board visioning tools for informal board meetings.

Retooling for New Realities – UUA Program – Patty asked if anyone would be interested in participating in the sharing of ourselves on a regional and national level. She indicated it was an 8 month commitment to meet 2 hours monthly plus homework. It was recommended two from the Board and two from Leadership should participate.

It was moved by Andrea LeMeuse to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m. (Submitted by Fern Stewart, Secretary)