

First Unitarian Church of Des Moines

Board of Trustees Minutes | Tuesday, August 20, 2024 at 6:00 PM
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Board Members: Kevin Boeckholt, Kathryn Sutton, Natalie Mason, Walter Pearson, Ann Mowery, Elaine Imlau, Kerry George, James Williams

Excused absence: Crystal Loving

Staff: Tracy Aukes, Rev. Meredith Garmon, Sally Boeckholt

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Board President Natalie Mason.

Timekeeper & Process Observer: Elaine Imlau

Public comment

- Update on Immigration Justice group from a member — Immigration support groups are feeling anxious about the upcoming election. New group of 14 congregations are gathering / organizing in response to the ongoing immigration. First Unitarian is active on the steering group.

Consent Agenda

- Correction: Update the dates in the consent agendas (minutes and September Board date)

Minister's Report

- Expand upon the Board's goals:
 - Building Community, Stewarding Resources, Engaging Our Congregation
 - Synthesization of congregational meetings 2 years ago
 - We'd be due for this, but don't want to step on the toes of the MSC
 - Want to peek into the MSC's findings and determine if any new goals need to be created from there.
 - Minister asks us to think of this more of a mission / aspiration and to think of specific & intentional goals to support this.
- MSC support
 - They'll be divvying up their tasks and roles
 - They should have a liaison from their group working with us
 - "For the most part they need to be left alone"
 - We're encouraged to help with calls / meetings with congregation down the road

Administrator's Report

- Recognition of Sally's work as the new bookkeeper
- Feedback from congregation on approachability, communication, relationship to the congregation
- Rentals are in good shape and will help us financially
 - Signed a lease with Just Voices for room 110
 - Practical Farmers 2-day retreat / board meeting / dinner
 - Family reunion by a member
 - AA continues its rental
 - Another church using UCDSM as its facility
 - HOA meeting
- Policy updates are being done with Walter
- Website updates on the way!
- Committees vs. teams
 - Clarifying on the website / communications / documentation

Financial Report

- Financial statement overview with Sally Boeckholt
- FOC meeting minutes are added to the church website
 - FOC meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month

New Business

- Ministerial Negotiating Committee (MNC)
 - Responsible for filing contract with the UUA
 - Negotiating with the minister
 - No more than 3 people
 - There is an established contract that will be used at the start of negotiations
 - Have to have a contract of record submitted to the UUA
 - Need to select a Board member & congregant
 - Board member James Williams recommended
 - Liz Bredeson recommended
 - Steve Stephenson (search committee member)
 - We may need to see who was on this group at the last search
 - Natalie Mason motion to select James Williams & Liz Bredeson (tentatively) representatives to be on the MNC
 - Seconded

- All voted in favor
- Annual Program Fund
 - It's been budgeted for \$15k
 - Our congregation's pledge to the UUA
 - We've received a statement telling us that we haven't contributed / pledged
 - Last year we paid \$10k
 - Tracy will fill out the pledge form for \$15k; Sally will write a lump sum check and send it to the UUA
- Other New Business

BOT Project Updates

- (Walt) Edits to policies — would like to move forward next week
 - September 3 — Feedback from the whole Board due
- Question to publicly publish full reports for the Board on the church's website ahead of meetings
 - Takeaway — Open to sharing, but posting on Realm instead of the church's website
- Ann / Capital Campaign
 - Conversations with Teresa Miller, Karen Kramer, Cheryl Long, Doug Aupperle
 - There are people who are willing to serve on committees and look for information
 - Project coordinator to work with a project committee that oversees a project
 - Grounds committee — generates specifics / costs of projects
 - Building committee — generates specifics / costs of projects
 - Fundraising committee — raises funds, themes, communications
 - September appointment with Lori Emison Clair (Endowment) to inform her on what the Board is considering for funds, possibilities include:
 - Seed money
 - Loan
 - Bridge loan
 - Would want the incoming minister to provide input
 - Proposal with costs and options
 - Goal is to share the proposal in the annual meeting with the ability for the congregation to authorize a campaign for fundraising
- Gratitude Board...
 - ...is up-to-date!
- Acoustic study in Griffin Hall is also included in Ann's project plan / considerations
 - We have preliminary funding for a study; but can't find a contractor
- Add photos of the Board and MSC to the billboard (Elaine)

Announcements

Board Meeting: Tuesday, September 17th 6:00 PM

September 28 — Community Faire / potluck, church-wide event. The Board will have a tablet at the event.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM by Natalie Mason.

Submitted by Kathryn Sutton, Secretary