

First Unitarian Church of Des Moines

Board of Trustees Minutes | Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 6:00 PM

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

Staff: Tracy Aukes, Rev. Meredith Garmon

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

Timekeeper & Process Observer: Elaine Imlau

Public comment

- Faith in Action
 - Team would like us to “do money differently”
 - Precedents for church giving
 - Splitting collection 50/50 (about \$9k each a year)
 - Sending a second basket
 - Now it’s budgeted (about \$500 / year each)
 - Recently there have been conversations about why it matters and comparisons of how amounts have changed
 - Positives — Raises visibility, unconditional support, financials
 - Wants us to commit to a plan as a congregation for the next 5 years on how to give and have it resolved ahead of the annual meeting about how it will be funded
 - Structured (in the budget) vs. unstructured (basket / online / fundraising / direct) giving
 - Pass a basket 1x / month in addition to a budgeted amount
 - Lack of transparency / information about how much is given to the orgs
 - Lately a resurgence in finding ways to engage with the partners
 - Board members to meet with Faith in Action — Walter Pearson, Elaine Imlau & Kerry George

Consent Agenda

- Approval of Board minutes
- Committee reports received

Minister's Report

- Conflict reconciliation policy that Bill Brauch is working on; Rev. Garmon and Tracy are reviewing it before becoming executive policy. Forum should be held in the future to publicize the policy and inform congregants on how to use it.
- Questions from the Board:
 - Where are we with the UUA in terms of getting feedback / direction on some things the Board is working on
 - Conversations among the congregation about biases and rethinking our biases
 - Moving forward to integrate conflict resolution into our congregation's culture / awareness / policies

Administrator's Report

- Texting platform initiated; limited to one text per month.
- Setting up a Schwab money market fund to \$150,000 (to work with cash in our checking account) — returns are about 4.5%–5.0%
- \$100,000 typical balance for checking going forward
- Policy updates
- Crankin' on the website!
- Faith formation in full swing

Financial Report

- Financials are looking good, on track!

New Business

- 25-26 Budget First Draft
- Endowment Discussion
 - Planning to have them attend our January Board meeting to provide information and answer our questions
- Ministerial Review Update
 - Committee needs to be formed to help write bylaws and process
 - Kevin and Kerry are currently on the committee; Liz Bredeson is also on board from the congregation
 - 4–5 members would be ideal
 - Past presidents / members of the Board
- Capital Campaign Update
 - Meeting with Dana Sorensen, architect

- Silent phase of fundraising is underway
- Proposal put together
- More communications, videos being put together
- Survey completed, information should be available soon
- Congregational Life
 - Motion to make Congregational Life not a committee — Kevin. Seconded. All in favor voted.
- Coffee with the Board
- Other New Business

Checkout

- Crystal to reach out to recruits for ministerial review
- Ask Endowment to join the January Board meeting. Talk to Sally B. about Coffee with the Board and “Talk About It” podium
- Walter Pearson, Elaine Imlau & Kerry George — Board members to meet with Faith in Action
- February 2nd would be new date of the budget form — Walter

Announcements

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, January 21st, 6:00 PM

Coffee with the Board Sunday, January 12th after service, in Stonewall

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM by Natalie Mason.

Submitted by Kathryn Sutton, Secretary