

First Unitarian Church of Des Moines

Board of Trustees Minutes | Tuesday, January 21, 2024 at 6:00 PM

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

Board Members with Excused Absences: Kathryn Sutton, 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: Ann Mowery

Public Comment

- Jude Cigrand asked about a directory and accessing member contact info in Realm. Tracy advised they are working with Realm to make contact information available for all Realm users, and also advised that a paper/physical directory is in the works for this Fall.
- Jude asked about use of Facebook, Tracy advised the office is aware of comments made in our Facebook group expressing concern about using Facebook, and is considering other options.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of Board minutes from 12/17/24

Minister's Report

- Conflict Reconciliation policy has been approved and is now in place, Rev. Garmon is working on putting together the 5 person Conflict Reconciliation Team and will work with them on communication of the policy and rolling it out to the congregation.
 - The forum on 4/13 is reserved for this topic

Administrator's Report

- New Childcare provider hired Destiny Reveles, she will fill in while Caylie is on leave, transitioning to an on-call position when Caylie returns. When Emilie leaves to attend college in August, Destiny will take her place as regular childcare provider on Sundays.
- Afghan Family Fund will be zeroed out in next month's budget, the family is using the remaining funds to purchase a car.
- UUA Certification is in progress, to be completed before Feb. 1st
- Website updates still in progress
- Attendance is up at Sunday services, and 49 visitors in 4th quarter
 - New member ceremony 1/26 for 6 individuals

Financial Report

- Financials are looking good, ahead of budget for pledges for the year.

- Afghan Family Fund will be zeroed out in next month's budget, the family is using the remaining funds to purchase a car.

New Business

- Osaic Account with Banker's Trust
 - Tracy was advised this account exists to receive gifts of stock given to the church, however all of the authorized signers on the account are no longer with the church.
 - Motion: to assign authorize signors Tracy Aukes church administrator and Stephen Meredith Garmon interim minister as authorized signors and Natalie Mason as other individual to authorize signors on the account – Elaine
 - Seconded, passed unanimously
- Budget 25-26
 - Discussion of draft budget for 25-26
 - Motion: amend current year budget to fund reserve for ministerial transition in the amount of \$15k – Kevin
 - Seconded, passed unanimously
 - This will allow us to fund that big ticket item in the 25-26 budget (paying for moving costs for the new minister) with surplus funds from the current budget year, helping to balance next year's budget.
 - Planning for 2/2/25 budget forum
 - Following the format we used for 24-25, present "keep the lights on" budget and board priorities for additional funds as received.
- Faith in Action Meeting with BOT members
 - Elaine and Sue Huber are connecting to set up meeting to discuss funding options for Faith in Action partners which can be presented to congregation at annual meeting. Kerry, Elaine, and Walter will represent the Board in this discussion
- Congregational Record
 - Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) has provided the Board with an edited copy of the Congregational Record presented to ministerial candidates, and asks for the Board's decision on how to distribute this to the congregation.
 - MSC requests it be a Board decision and that the Board attempt as much as possible to field questions/comments as MSC is deep in their candidate review process and needs to focus their attention on that.
 - Motion: Put announcement in Realm that congregational record is available and all questions/comments should be directed to the Board. – Ann
 - Seconded, unanimously approved
- Sound in Griffin Hall
 - Expect to have drawings and initial cost estimates by end of week
 - Work could include acoustic treatments, also considering some new lighting which makes sense to include in this project.
- Ministerial Review
 - Crystal emailed report that Liz Bredeson has agreed to join the committee, still looking for 1-2 more congregants to join, open to suggestions

- Walter suggests members of Celebrant Team or Caring Ministry/Pastoral Care would be good since those teams work closely with the minister
- Crystal has copy of blank charter form and is working on that.
- Capital Campaign
 - Meeting with architects 1/22 to get more cost info
 - Met with endowment committee to discuss funding, will make a request to them within the next month.

Checkout

- Elaine to coordinate meeting with Faith in Action
- Natalie to coordinate meeting with Endowment
- Natalie and Walter to coordinate with Tracy and Sally on budget forum
- Walter to write blurb for Realm announcement of Congregational Record
- Natalie to write minutes and send to Tracy and Sally as documentation for the motions passed

Announcements

- Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 18th 6pm
- 1st Board Budget Forum 2/2/25

Meeting was adjourned at 8:01pm by Natalie Mason

Submitted by Natalie Mason, acting as Secretary in Kathryn's absence