First Unitarian Church of Des Moines
Board of Trustees Minutes
Thursday, January 16, 2020
6:00 p.m.

In attendance:
Board Members: Bill Brauch, Gene McCracken, Sue Huber, Mike Lauer, Patty Notch, Scott Clair, Heidi Mannetter, Rev. Amy Shaw
Timekeeper: Mike Lauer
Process Observer: Scott Clair

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Board President Sue Huber. Mike Lauer moved adoption of the agenda, including the consent agenda approving the December Board Meeting Minutes as published on the church website. The motion was seconded and adopted via voice vote. Board members did a check-in.

Executive Report and Administrative Items
Rev. Shaw submitted a written Executive Report. It is posted on the church website. They responded to questions from Board members.

Financials and Dashboard
Director of Finance and Administration Charles Lewis submitted a written financial report. It is posted on the church website.

Discussion Items

1. **Update on Accessibility concerns at First Unitarian.** Rev. Amy stated, as they did last month, that they had met with an acoustician about sound in the auditorium. They also reported that once we have a cost estimate for loud speakers they think the church can install a sound loop in the auditorium to better enable folks with hearing aids to be able to hear in the room. Rev. Amy added that the church can complete everything on the accessibility improvement list this year, including installing automatic opening capacity to the outside doors to the east and west of the auditorium and adding step-edging to make certain steps more visible. Finally, they added that the addition of more Sunday-only accessible parking in the south lot will soon be done.

2. **New payment vendor-Update on vendors.** Rev. Amy reported that they have met with Barb Royal for advice on this and that the favored vendor is Pushpay. The cost for Pushpay is $3000/year. Pushpay’s offer is that if we don’t increase the dollar amount of pledge income by at least $52,000 the first year, the second year is free. Pushpay provides an app that the church can use to communicate more easily with members, and that will make it easier for members to give online. Mike Lauer moved the Board support the decision to contract with Push Pay. The motion was seconded and passed via voice vote.
3. **Mission and Vision Statement: Next Step.** Rev. Amy reported that they have met with Kerrie Lee about how to bring the mission and vision statements more prominently before the congregation, including creating large banners to hang in the auditorium. They added that we should all begin thinking about where else we can post the mission and vision statements. Sue Huber asked Rev. Amy how the Board can help support the effort. They responded that the Board can help as they ask members to commit to live the message to “love, serve, and grow.” But, first, we have to get that mission in front of everyone to assist in community-building.

4. **Board Goals: Continue Discussion and Plan.** Board members discussed how the Board might best determine the baseline of the degree to which members feel welcome at and satisfied with our church. Consensus was to use a two-question member survey. Board members also discussed past failures to track the number of people participating in certain meetings, activities, and events and the need to know those numbers in order to have a baseline to determine success in increasing participation. Board members discussed that, regarding the goal of increasing visibility in community action, the current church year be used as the baseline. Sue Huber said that she will work on getting the short survey out regarding the first goal and that we will plan to prepare another survey as to the second goal.

5. **Solar Panels.** Rev. Amy reported that Charlie was recently contacted by the entity that was working with us on the possibility of installing solar panels on our church. This will be discussed in more detail at a future Board meeting.

6. **Budget Meetings.** Rev. Amy reported that folks have been really engaged in the two budget meetings held in the week prior to this Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.  (Submitted by Bill Brauch, Secretary)

*The Board Goals for 2019-20 are:

1. To be more welcoming to all as evidenced by:
   a. Increased attendance at services;
   b. Create a congregational baseline for sense of satisfaction and welcome at First Unitarian; and,
   c. Address all concerns made by the Accessibility Team including the signage, sound equipment, updated chair lift, ramp to stage.

2. Increase engagement by members and friends as evidenced by:
   a. Increased programming and events offered through the church; and,
   b. Increased participation at these events.

3. Increase congregational visibility in community action as evidenced by:
   a. Attendance at community actions;
   b. Contributions to social justice organizations; and,
   c. Media engagement.