

First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee

Minutes of the Meeting of the BOARD OF TRUSTEES

November 28, 2017

Present: Julie Bock (President), Michelle Naples (Vice President)-presiding, Jeremy Koenen (Secretary), Mark Bishop, Omega Burckhardt, Maria Dorsey (Recording Secretary), Peter Koneazny, Holly Patzer.

Not Present: Joyce Harms

Also Present: Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom (Senior Minister), Jean Johnson (Director of Administration).

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm

1.Consent Agenda (Michelle)

- Two corrections made to the Oct. 24 minutes, Mark Bishop was not present and Omega's last name was spelled incorrectly with the correct spelling, Burckhardt.
- Guidance for the Social Justice Council in the BOT drop box for review.
- After corrections made, both items on the Consent Agenda were unanimously approved, with a motion made by Holly and seconded by Julie.

Moved to Approve: Holly/Julie **Approved:** Unanimously

2. Pledge Drive Plans (Lynne Jacoby)(Inform Only)

- Lynne reported to the BOT the 2017-18 Pledge Drive/Stewardship Plan
- The Stewardship council will meet in 2 weeks to solidify the theme and dates for planned events around stewardship.
- Rev. Jennifer has committed to speaking to the largest donors and the council will also reach out to the 35 households who have been members 3 years or less who have contributed less than \$1000.
- The Income Opportunity Team will work in conjunction with the Stewardship Council to provide Financial Educational Sessions for the congregation.
- Dates that have been set are Stewardship Sunday(2/18) and Celebratory Sunday(3/18).
- The staff will look to the BOT for input as to recruitment recommendations for the stewardship council.

3.BOT Feast For Funds Donation (Lynne Jacoby)(Inform Only)

- Only 12 people signed up for the BOT event: Chili and Beer with the Board on Feb. 9.
- The deadline can be extended until 1/14/18 to sign up.
- Lynne will create a link on the Church's Facebook page for people to sign up.
- Susan Thaney and the BOT can continue to recruit for this event.
- Over all FFF raised \$26,000 gross, \$24,000 net.

4. Sanctuary Discernment Team (Lorraine Jacobs and Kitty Wilkomm)

- Lorraine and Kitty reported that there were 8 Cottage Meetings held with 91 participants.
- 69 participants felt that joining with other religious institutions (churches, synagogues etc) to form a coalition was the best first step.
- 48 participants viewed FUSM as a physical sanctuary.
- Some of the concerns raised as to physical sanctuary were the legal ramifications and the financial cost.
- The overall take away from the cottage meetings was that at this moment in time, FUSM was not fully ready to be a physical sanctuary.
- The Social Justice Council (SJC) met on Nov. 19, 2017 and approved a motion regarding the Sanctuary Discernment team recommendation. The unanimous vote was to approve the first sentence of the recommendation and to authorize Beth Pollack Bruch, Pete Koneazny, Lorraine and Kitty to finalize the wording of the other two sentences in light of the SJC discussion.
- Lorraine and Kitty took time to explained the last sentence of the recommendation. The first part held the door open for physical sanctuary and the last part of that sentence is a public example to others that we are living our UU principles and a statement of hope to the immigrant community.
- On Nov. 30 Rev. Jennifer will host a meeting with clergy regarding the idea of forming a coalition.
- Pete K brought up the issue of, if a coalition was formed the issue of dues paying members should be put in the coalition draft. Lorraine indicated that in the recommendation, "financial contributions," incorporated "dues."
- A motion was made by Pete and seconded by Holly to approve the Sanctuary Discernment Team Recommendation.
- **Moved to Approve: Pete/Holly Approved: Unanimously**

5. Visioning Together(Julie) (Discussion only)

- A discussion led by Julie and Rev. Jennifer regarding the next steps in the visioning process included, creating a slide show of the magazine covers so that during our retreat we are immersed in the visual. Jennifer and Julie will categorize the data into "within, among and beyond" before the retreat.
- The BOT needs to prepare for our 2 day retreat in January. The first day will be displaying all of the information we gathered during the visioning sessions. The second day will involve narrowing the process piece. Each BOT member should review their notes, the data that Michelle and Jeremy have compiled, and identify 3 themes they see emerging from the data, 3 value words they think should be considered, and 1 story or experience from the visioning sessions that moved them. Each BOT member should come up with a summary of their own visioning experience.
- The BOT had a discussion regarding surveying the visioning process facilitators. After much discussion it was decided that Julie would put together a simple survey monkey for feed back. Maria can send the survey link to the facilitators.

6. Sr. Minister's Report (Rev. Jennifer)(Inform Only)

- Jean Johnson revised the Office Assistant's job description to, "Office Coordinator," which includes a higher level of database management. Jean is currently interviewing for the position.

- The gift acceptance team met on Nov. 9 and is planning on providing guidance to the Investments Team about the timing of allocations.
- The Adult RE has formed a new team, “The Adult Religious Education and Spiritual Development team.” The new team has also developed a mission statement for the program.
- CRE attendance is a little bit down in numbers, but the number of registered children is also down from last year.
- Worship attendance for November was about 16% lower than last November, but there was a spike in attendance after the Presidential election. Worship attendance is about 12% higher than the last interim year.

7. Other Business

- No other business was discussed.

8. Adjournment

- Mark made a motion to adjourn and Holly seconded the motion.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.