

**First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of the BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**October 24, 2017**

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

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

**The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.**

**1. Consent Agenda (Julie)**

- All items on the Consent Agenda were unanimously approved, with motion made by Holly, and seconded by Omega. These items include: Sept BOT minutes, YRUU Youth Steering Committee Budget, Declaration of Conscience by SJC, and Rev Jennifer's Ministerial Evaluation Acceptance.

**Moved to Accept (Holly/Omega) Approved** unanimously

**2. First Quarter Financials (Jean stepping in for Noreen)**

- Financials were presented by Jean Johnson (stepping in for Noreen Gilbertson). Motion was made to approve by Michelle, seconded by Maria. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion to approve FUS Financial Report.

**Moved to Accept (Michelle/Maria) Approved** unanimously

**3. Visioning Together process (Discussion only)**

- The Visioning Together process was discussed, in particular regarding whether there would be sufficient attendance to meet the consultant's recommended 20% participation minimum. A projected total was tallied to include registrations through the end of October, which fell short. When it was discovered that the number participants in the September workshop had not been included, the total was re-tallied and at that point was deemed sufficient to meet the minimum 20% congregational participation goal.

**4. Sr. Minister's Report (Rev. Jennifer) (Inform only)**

- The Office Assistant Tracy's last day will be November 10th. Jean Johnson is leading the effort to work with volunteers to fill the gap until a new hire can be made. Target date for this is December 18th.
- The Gifts Acceptance Team commenced meeting as of November 9th.
- Pledge Team member recruitment has begun.
- Although there were fewer Feast for Funds contributions, the group is still hoping to meet its \$25,000 goal.
- Attendance: Children's RE registration/attendance are down. It was noted that there is a downward trend nationally, although some area congregations' RE attendance is up. Worship attendance is on pace with the month of October for the previous 2 years, although total attendance for the church year is down 12%, which is reflective of less robust attendance at InGathering Sunday as in year's past.

- Rev Jennifer met with the Voces Sanctuary group, an effort to coalesce 10 congregations around the Sanctuary issue.
- 5. Sanctuary Discernment Team Report (Joyce) (Inform only)**
- As of the discernment team's meeting with the board, three Cottage Meetings had been conducted to date, with a total attendance of 33 congregants. Several more are scheduled through the end of October, with the final one to be held November 5th.
  - Votes will be tallied and the Sanctuary Discernment Team will review the notes to get a sense of which of the 3 recommendations to bring forward to the Social Justice Committee.
  - BOT discussed the need to clarify and lay out the process for congregational consideration of the fruits of the Sanctuary Discernment Team's efforts. After a review of FUS By-Laws, the Executive Committee is to take it up at its November 7th meeting in order to bring forward a process in time for the Nov 26th BOT meeting and presentation of a recommended option by the Sanctuary Discernment Team at that same meeting.
- 6. Other Business**
- a. Holly reported that the Income Opportunities Team has started meeting and is working on setting a date for an event in early 2018, being mindful of the ramp-up of Pledge season.

**The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.**

**Next Meeting:** November 28<sup>th</sup> at 6pm

(Chair: Michelle; Words/Snack: Mark; Minutes/Chanticleer: Maria)

[1-Board of Trustees Report Q1 2017-18.pdf](#)