

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

September 26, 2017

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

The chair presented the following items for summary approval:

- Minutes from the August 2017 BOT meeting
- Nomination Committee's nomination of Don Weimer for a one (1) year term expiring 2018 and Joe Schuler for a two (2) year term expiring 2019 to the Nominating Committee

Moved to Accept (Holly/Maria) Approved unanimously

2. Visioning Together process (Discussion only)

Discussion included debriefing on the Facilitators' and Trustees' workshop to prepare for the October congregational visioning (AI) sessions. The Trustees gave very positive reviews of the workshop and were optimistic that the format will work well for gathering members' insights and opinions.

Discussion of AI visioning session logistics & planning included the following:

- Trustee(s) on duty for each session will be responsible for bringing treats for the session. AFC will set out water and cups.
- The closet in the hallway/lobby outside of Otto Hall will be used for the AI supplies. The AFC will set out the craft materials (for the "magazine" projects).
- "Gold stars" will be available for Trustees to give to participants, to affix to their FUSM name tags.
- Trustees will be able to check in advance who has signed up for a particular AI session. If less than 4 have signed up we will have to decide if we hold general discussion among a small group (and vary from the formal workshop plan) or to try to re-assign those members to a different AI session.
- Trustees will place the "flip charts" in the flip chart box in the storage closet and take a cellphone photo of each flip chart page.

- Trustee dates/times for sessions and for Sunday tabling duty will be in September drop-box, in visioning session folder.
- Trustees take notes to capture comments – focusing on those that are repeated and/or emphasized: look for themes as well as “wow” and “aha” moments.
- One set of notes will be typed up from the sheets generated during the sessions.
- We are not planning for children and youth to be included in the members’ sessions, but there are plans for separate visioning sessions for the children and youth in November. Julie (9 a.m.) and Mark (11 a.m.) agreed to attend the children’s sessions and Michelle agreed to attend the youth session.

3. Lu Krug bequest team approval (Rev. Jennifer)

Rev. Jennifer presented the “slate” of her recommendations to serve on the “Gift Acceptance Team” that will allocate the Lu Krug bequest, pursuant to the recently adopted Bequest Policy. Based on outreach to the respective groups and giving consideration to experience, diversity, skills and service to the congregation, Rev. Jennifer recommended the following individuals to fill the roles set out in the Policy:

- Board of Trustees representative: Holly Patzer
- Committee on Ministry representative: Lianna Bishop
- Finance Committee representative: Gordie Mueller
- The Senior Minister: Jennifer Nordstrom
- Investment Committee representative: Dave Becker (note: Dave is a former Investment Committee member)
- “Other lay leaders and staff as appropriate”: Elizabeth Lentini and Jean Johnson

Moved to Accept (Julie/Mark) **Approved:** Unanimously

4. Senior Minister Report (Inform only)

Rev. Jennifer highlighted the following from her Report:

- Staff team goals have been substantially completed and written descriptions have been provided to the Trustees.
- Metrics for RE and Sunday worship services are being tracked and are worth paying attention to for emerging trends.
- Worship attendance numbers are lower than last year, by 20%, and Ingathering attendance was 100 people lower than last year. Heat may have been a factor in Ingathering low attendance, but we do not have a clear read on that. September attendance was 5% lower than interim year, but this may disproportionately reflect the low turnout for Ingathering.

- RE numbers are lower than last year, but not that much lower (so RE drop is not seen as the driver of the lower attendance overall).
- FUSM's vigil for a recent police-involved shooting was notable for family members of the deceased attending, in addition to good overall participation.
- The Black Lives Matter to WI UUs collaboration, of which FUSM's Black Lives Matter team is a member, has selected Rev. Barber's Poor People's Campaign as this church year's focus.

5. Sanctuary Discernment Team Report (Joyce) (Inform only).

Trustee Joyce Harms reported on Discernment Team progress, including:

- "Cottage" meetings schedule has been prominently displayed in the hallway.
- The team will not be requiring advance registration but hopes to have 150-200 people participate in the sessions.
- The team is prepared, for note takers etc., to process information.
- The plan is for the Team to arrive at a recommendation to present to the Social Justice Committee on November 19th and then to the BOT on November 26.
- A December 3rd BBBC has been discussed, but there is some concern that that date is at a busy time for members, generally and that a January BBBC date may be better. However, the initial plan was for completion by December and Rev. Jennifer noted that Christmas time for a rollout might be good, because of a natural tie-in to a Christmas "welcoming" theme.

6. BOT Feast for Funds Donation (Discussion)

The Trustees discussed whether to organize a FFF donation or event:

- October 8th deadline to submit an event plan.
- There was a general consensus that the BOT do an event this year and discussion of various options arrived at a proposal to combine serving homemade Chili (perhaps trustees offering different recipes in a contest format) along with a beer tasting event, most likely featuring Lakefront Brewery offerings.
- February 9th was agreed upon as the target event date, with target attendance of 45-50 patrons at \$45 - \$50 per person.
- Omega and Michelle will firm up details and submit write up to FFF group.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Next Meeting: October 24 at 6pm

(Chair: Julie Words/Snack: Omega Minutes/Chanticleer: Joyce)

Calendar: Visioning Workshop January 26th 5:30-9pm & January 27th 8:30am-5pm.