

First Universalist Church of Minneapolis Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday, August 20, 2009, 6:30 p.m.

Board Members present (absent): Jill Andersen, Tim Balke, Dan Berg, Kathy Coskran, Nancy Gaschott, Judy Goebel, Jane Johnson, Barry Johnson, Candace McClenahan, Jim Santelli, Doug Smalley, Kimon Swarts

Clergy present: Justin Schroeder, Kate Tucker

Others present : Patti Frazee, Paige Winebarger, Ginny McAninch

Agenda Item	Presenter	Discussion	Action, if any
Opening Words/ Meeting Preparation		The meeting was called to order at 6:30. Justin Schroeder provided opening words.	
Consent agenda		Board members confirmed the meeting objectives, approved the June Board Meeting minutes, approved August Board Meeting agenda and approved the Senior Minister's housing allowance allocation.	
Senior Minister's Report	Justin Schroeder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church members will notice some changes to worship life this fall. The ministers are trying to strengthen the Sunday morning experience for congregants by rearranging the order of service. Anticipate other changes as ministers try new approaches. • Sermon-based small groups (formerly known as ARC groups or small group ministries) will be initiated this fall. These voluntary groups will provide a vehicle for participants to "go deeper", connect and grow spiritually • Monthly themes to be followed by all areas of the church during he coming year, and for the foreseeable future. This allows for more alignment between the program areas of the church. • Patti Frazee has been on medical leave, and covering her responsibilities has presented a challenge for the rest of the staff. 	
Financial Monitoring Report	Paige Winebarger, "Minister of Finance" & Nancy Gaschott, Treasurer	<p>Paige's Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yearend close final numbers are not complete due to Patti's emergency back surgery. She was able to post most of her yearend work, so preliminarily it appears that there is a surplus from operations in the range of \$5,000 to \$10,000, instead of the small deficit that had been anticipated. • Pledge payments in June and July, for both the 2008-09 church year and for 2009-10 have been consistent with or better than previous years. • The church's investment accounts are recovering due to the improving economy, although not back to where they were a year ago. The church's investment account balance as of July 31 was \$640,671. The Foundation's investment account balance at that time was \$1,205,768. The operating accounts (checking) balance was \$72,000 on July 31. <p>Nancy's Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nancy has been learning about the church's finances I and putting together a plan for the work of the Financial Monitoring Committee for current church year. She plans to convene a meeting of the Financial Monitoring Committee soon. • This is a transition year, and Board of Trustees will be treating finance slightly differently than before we implemented Policy Governance. 	
Unity Leadership Committee Report charged with investigating whether Unity Leadership should	Doug Smalley	The committee, led by Laura Cooper has met three times. It is in information gathering stage, and anticipates one or two additional meetings before it will make a recommendation about whether Unity Leadership Institute should remain a part of the church or be spun off into its own 501c3. Unity has grown substantially and there is appetite for additional growth. Becoming a separate 501c3 would	

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become a separate 501c3 from the church		make it possible to attract contributions from entities that would not or could not contribute to a church. It would also allow for Unity Leadership to spin off to interested parties geographically distant and to other churches. This is a deep issue and touches a lot of emotion. The Board of Trustees and Justin will eventually decide who should make the final decision about this.	
Leadership Development	Barry Johnson, Ginny McAninch	The Nominating Committee would like comments from the board on the subject of Leadership Development. There was discussion about whether there should be more intentional leadership development in the church environment. The Nominating Committee will consider this issue in its September. Making leadership development part of membership integration, staff development, small group ministry was considered. Coordination and alignment between staff leadership training and lay leadership development was discussed. It was noted that there is a distinction between organizational leadership and spiritual leadership that needs to be kept in mind.	
Future Board Agenda Structure	Barry Johnson	Barry tried a different agenda structure for this meeting and solicited comments or direction from the Board. The new agenda structure came out of a Policy Governance session that Barry and Justin attended at General Assembly. Barry hopes the change to the meeting opening process (elimination of the "check-in") will focus on getting board ready for its work. The snack break at around 8:00 has been eliminated, as has the executive session at the end of agenda of every meeting. There was discussion and it was mentioned that the new board and Justin need to get to know one another and establish trust. The upcoming retreat will help with this. The agenda changes can be discussed again at a later date.	
Board Retreat Planning Update	Barry Johnson	Barry distributed a draft board retreat agenda and solicited comments. There were questions about what an ARC/Sermon Based session (planned for Saturday) would be like. The start time on Friday was moved up to 5:30, and activities will run until 9, providing a bit more time. Saturday's agenda goes from 8 AM to 6 PM. Friday the Board will convene at Nancy Gaschott's house. Board members will spend the night at their own homes. On Saturday, the retreat events will be at Jane Johnson's home in Minnetonka.	
Meeting Summary	Barry Johnson	Barry provided a summary and review of action items and assignments from this meeting.	
Meeting Evaluation		The group discussed and evaluated the meeting. It was noted that if we are aware of visitors, we should make sure they get agenda in advance. Board packets containing the agenda and other materials are posted on the church website prior to each board meeting. Trustees noted that the meeting started on time, and followed agenda and the planned amounts of time for each item.	
Adjourn			8:30

Important Dates:

Next meeting: September 17

Upcoming Events:
 August 23 Lake Harriet Service and All Church Picnic
 September 11-12 Board Retreat

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