

First Universalist Church of Minneapolis Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday, April 15, 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

Agenda Item	Presenter	Discussion	Action, if any
Opening Words/ Meeting Preparation	Justin Schroeder	6:30 call to order. Confirm meeting objectives and agenda	
Consent agenda	Barry Johnson	-Approve March minutes -Approve new members -Set annual meeting of the congregation for June 6, 11:15 AM -Set special meeting of the board of trustees for June 6, 2010, 12:30 PM	Approved
Senior Minister Report	Justin Schroeder	Justin highlighted some topics from his Senior Minister's Report (included in the April Board Packet – page 4): The pledge drive results thus far are very encouraging. The sermon based small groups program will expand in the fall. Some Religious Education changes are being proposed to encourage volunteering to teach. Due to space issues arising from our tenant, staff has been investigating the feasibility and desirability of moving their offices offsite. There were questions and discussion about the actions that staff has taken and could take to encourage more congregants to volunteer to teach religious education. Justin and Kate plan to speak about teaching from the pulpit. There will be sessions in May for parents to register their children for RE for next fall, to recruit volunteers, and to discuss how the RE program works.	
Financial Monitoring Report	Nancy Gaschott	Nancy spoke about the Financial Monitoring Report (published in the April Board Packet – page 14) and the recommendations the Financial Monitoring Committee has made regarding reserve funds over which the staff and Board have spending authority. The committee strongly recommends that a 3-5 year strategic plan be completed before much of this money is spent. This issue will be on a Board Meeting agenda, probably next month.	
2010-2011 Draft Budget	Patti Frazee, Justin Schroeder	Patti presented a preliminary version of the PowerPoint presentation that will be shown at the budget informational sessions prior to the Annual Meeting and solicited feedback from the Board. There was discussion of the proposal to move staff offices offsite. This has been done by a few other churches, but it is not a common practice. The current office space is 1800 square feet. If we did not have a tenant, we would have sufficient space to make this action unnecessary. Emily Gray's lease is written with the option for them to renew, so they could be with us for another three years. Patti has investigated some rental space that would be 2800 to 3800 square feet. One drawback of renting space is that we would have to pay property tax on office space of about \$17,000 per year as part of the rent, because the rental space would be commercial. The staff is trying to decide whether to "make do" with existing office space in the building for another year, or lease offsite space for 3 yrs and then create a strategic plan. Nancy Gaschott pointed out that the proposed budget is aggressive. While she sees no problem with that, staff needs to plan for areas that can be cut if our fundraising goals not achieved.	

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		There was a question about whether a reserve fund for paying for future minister sabbaticals is in the proposed budget. This has not been included this year. The need to reduce the congregation's financial dependence on tenant income was discussed. Action on this issue has been deferred to next year. The Board recognizes that the draft budget includes a deficit. The final budget should be balanced.	
Second Question of the Month Update		Due to time constraints, discussion of this topic is deferred to next month.	
Executive Session		No minutes taken.	
Adjourn			8:47

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Goebel

Judy Goebel, Secretary of the Board of Trustees

Important Dates:

Next meeting: May 20, 6:30 PM
Upcoming Events: May 12, 7 PM - Budget presentation
Treats for Next Meeting: Jim Santelli