

## President's Notes: Board Meeting

I would like to highlight several items from the Board meeting last Thursday:

- The Stewardship Team reported on the pledge drive for next year's budget. There are still about 25 households which we have yet to contact, and we are closing in on our pledge target for next year. But stewardship is about much more than meeting a financial target—it is about supporting a spirit of generosity in our lives, coming from an awareness of our abundance rather than scarcity, sharing what we have (treasure, yes, but just as important is time and talent) to create that “other” that is more than the sum of each of us.
- Building & Grounds (B&G) proposed entering an agreement to place photovoltaic collectors on our roof, and replacing our current lighting with LEDs (which will improve the quality of light in our sanctuary and other spaces *and* use significantly less energy in the process). This is right in line with our commitment to be a Green Sanctuary and our principle of respect for the interdependent web. We hope to finalize agreements in the coming month.
- Remember how cold the sanctuary was on that first really cold Sunday in October? It turns out our boiler needed some repairs and valve replacements. It cost a bit (\$2600), but we knew it was coming some day and our old boiler should be good for a while now.
- The Board has asked Education & Justice (EdJ) to assemble a task force to consider a Rapid Response policy for the congregation. The impetus for this was the recent incidents of hate speech in North Mankato and St. Peter, followed by the murders at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. Both Rev. Rita and the Board wanted to join our voices to others which rose in witness, but there was not enough time to call a congregational meeting to authorize it. So, in the next few weeks you will see information in the Weekly and there will be time for Table Conversations at the Fellowship hour as we begin to discern together under what conditions and in what circumstances the congregation will authorize the Minister and the Board President to speak in our behalf without calling a congregational meeting in advance.
- EdJ also reported that the Second Collection for It's Time to Talk raised \$1040! This was a heartwarming endorsement of the work of the YWCA, a project so many of us have been involved in to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person and to support justice, equity and compassion in our relations. Thank you.