

Minutes
UUFM Board Meeting
November 15, 2018 6-8:15 p.m.

Attendance:

Tony Filipovitch, President
John Knox, Treasurer
Ken Davey, Vice President
Diane Dobitz, Member at Large
Tricia Nienow, Member at Large
Faye Mattison, Secretary
Andy Roberts, Member at Large
Rev. Rita Capezzi, Minister
Nancy Cramblit, Past President
Kay VanBuskirk, Stewardship Co-Chair
Dick Nienow, Building and Grounds Co-Chair

Greeting and Check-In

Chalice Lighting and Board Covenant: We are a welcoming people of diverse beliefs who commit to nourish the spirit, broaden the mind, nurture the earth and build community. May this flame we kindle remind us to strive, today and every day, to love beyond belief.

Review Agenda for adds/revisions

Consent Agenda: Attendance, Treasurer's Report, Minister's Report, Annette Schmit-Cline Alcohol Request. **Motion:** Diane Dobitz; Second, John Knox; passed.

Promises for the Covenant:

- We as a board commit to being present to members as we go through change.
- Rev. Rita will tell us when she's feeling challenged so we can offer support and/or input.

Updates and Committee Recommendations:

- **Correction to October Minutes:** “After discussion the Board decided that the EdJ Committee name will stay as is.” **Motion:** Tricia Nienow; Second, Andy Roberts; approved with correction.
- **Attendance Data Update (Rev. Rita):** Rita noted that the attendance numbers have been fairly consistent over the years. She will keep track of attendance in case this becomes of interest.
- **Stewardship Campaign Kay VanBuskirk):**
 - The Stewardship Campaign so far has raised \$110,000. The committee would like to finish calls to those who have not yet turned in their pledge cards by December 1 if possible.
 - Table Talks have been helpful.
 - Kay attended an online webinar. She suggested that stewardship needs to be year around, not just a pledge drive. Because of the deficit, we need a committee/team to come up with fundraising ideas and to carry out those plans.
 - We need an ongoing plan to discuss endowments.
 - Kay feels our survival depends on eliminating the deficit and becoming self-supporting.
 - General Discussion: Diane felt that our approach should not create fear of

scarcity. Rita suggested that we each think about why we give and try to channel that into our conversations. Tony would like to get the number of non-pledgers down to 10%. Even a pledge of \$0 is OK. We need to know our baseline.

- **Minister's Issues:**

- Support as congregants adjust to changes in worship and to ongoing and emerging relationships between staff collaborators.
- Support in easing a former employee back into relationship with the congregation after a tumultuous exit.
- Support in reforming the Worship Team in order to consistently provide Sunday music. Currently the team has just one member. Peter will provide volunteer music approximately once per month. Rita will provide support, but she welcomes suggestions as to musicians and worship associates.
- Support for an Aesthetics Team to rework the flow of the narthex. We discussed this last month, but specific actions did not emerge. Andy will put Rita in touch with Henry Panowitsch from Building and Grounds. Rita separately created a beautification squad regarding altar cloths and flowers, and that group meets on December 1.

- **Treasurer's Issues:**

- \$2633 for furnace repairs will be paid out of Building and Grounds or the Reserve Fund.
- November Fellowship Coffee Designated Fund: \$392 came out to replace table cloths; a volunteer crew cut them to fit.
- John has not made any adjustment regarding where Child Care funds will come from.
- In July several people paid ahead on their pledges, but this won't continue.
- Older members with IRAs can choose to designate money to go directly to the church so the money is not counted as taxable income.
- We've started to pay child care expenses at the new rate. These amounts will show up the next month, i.e. November pay is actually for October.

- **Rapid Response Task Force Recommendation (Rev. Rita):**

- We have two paths to consider:
 - 1) Help people make the connection between the UU community and current need.
 - 2) A fast track option which embraces our faith tradition and enables us to respond quickly to events defined as hate crimes.
- We'll hold Sunday Table Topics and a congregational vote the following week, to approve the Rapid Response Task Force Recommendation. We need a quorum of at least 33 with the majority voting "yes" approve. Bylaws require a ten-day notice to call a congregational vote. Email votes are not accepted.

- **It's Time to Talk (IT2T) Second Collection Report (Diane Dobitz):**

- We raised \$1040 in support of this racial justice event.
- Tricia Nienow, Mary Ann Nelson, Jan Klages, Barbara Keating and Danielle Stedman will attend as participants. Several others will go as trained facilitators.
- Next year we'll take the collection in September.

- **Connections Shelter:** We'll be helping at Grace Lutheran in December 2018, February 2019 and April 2019.

New Business:

- **Building and Grounds (B&G) Proposal for Photovoltaics and LED Interior Lighting (Andy Roberts):**

- B&G feels it is important to sign the contract soon in order to avoid higher costs,

although installation doesn't need to take place immediately. We should decide by at least December 15.

- There is no cost to install the solar panels. We'll pay less in electricity because of the panels. One-Stop Efficiency Shop/Center for Energy and Environment, Minneapolis, in conjunction with Xcel Energy, take 80% of the savings and we take 20%; this is how the panels will be paid for. After 13 years, we own them.
- Replacing our current lighting with LEDs will improve the quality of light in our sanctuary and other spaces, and it will use significantly less energy. Rebates and energy savings will result in no net increase in energy costs to UUFM.
- Dick Nienow also shared details on the above proposals. He'll send the contracts to Tony, and Tony will forward the contracts to the attorney for review.
- **Motion to proceed with both proposals:** Diane Dobitz; Second, John Knox; approved.
- **EdJ Request Re. Move to Amend Campaign (Diane Dobitz):**
 - A letter was received from Move to Amend Interfaith Caucus for UUFM to stand with the Move to Amend campaign to help get big money out of politics by amending the US constitution to establish that only human beings are persons with constitutional rights and that money is not speech. The request is from UUs for a Just Economic Community and other faith leaders.
 - We may hold Table Topics in January, and we may possibly bring this to the congregation for a vote. We need more information, and we need to decide how much of a priority this is for our congregation at this time.
- **Chambers Request to Serve Alcohol:**
 - Sue Chambers has requested to serve alcohol at a New Year's Eve party at the Fellowship. **Motion to approve with contingencies:** Andy Roberts; Second, Diane Dobitz; Andy Roberts abstained; Ken Davey voted No; approved if the following contingencies are met by December 1:
 - 1) If the building use contract is signed,
 - 2) If the Monday night meditation group cancels their meeting, and
 - 3) If the invitation specifies that this is not a UUFM-sponsored party.
- **December Meeting:**
 - Our next Board meeting will be on Wednesday, December 19, 5:30-6:40 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:15 p.m.: Diane Dobitz; Second, Andy Roberts; approved.