

First Unitarian Church of Chicago

Minutes of the October 20, 2016 Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Trustees Present:

Joan Pederson, President
Jim Proctor, Vice President
Kris Barker
Beverly Bennett
Kent Richmond
Christine Harrell, Alternate

Others Present:

Joanne Michalski, Treasurer
Julie Larson, Secretary
Rev. David Schwartz, Senior Co-Minister (ex officio)
Rev. Teri Schwartz, Senior Co-Minister (ex officio)
Rev. Karen Mooney, Interim Religious Education Minister
Grace Latibeaudiere-Williams, Chair, Capital Campaign Search Committee
Anita Orlikoff, Chair, Social Justice Council

The meeting was called to order by Joan at 7:15, followed by with the Chalice Lighting with opening words from Jim, then check-in by those present.

1. Board Priorities:

a. Capital Campaign

Grace discussed the work of the Capital Campaign Consultant Search Committee to hire a consultant, whose first take would be conducting a feasibility study. The committee interviewed three candidates, and recommended Pratapas Associated, led by Steve Pratapas, which has had successful campaigns in the past with non-profits and and two Unitarian Universalist churches, at a cost of \$28,304. Anonymous donors are covering \$28,000 of this amount.

MOTION: Engage Pratapas Associates to conduct the feasibility study for the capital campaign and to serve as capital campaign consultant should the feasibility study demonstrate that such a campaign is feasible. (Motion: Jim Proctor; second: Beverly Bennett). Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Dissolve the Capital Campaign Consultant Search Committee, which has successfully completed its work. (Motion: Kris Barker; second: Jim Proctor) Passed unanimously.

b. Belonging/Membership Committee

Beverly and Teri presented a proposal for new group, the Belonging Task Force, “to explore, create and implement a plan to re-vitalize and re-imagine our practices to help visitors, friends, and new and mid-range members feel like they belong, and to facilitate genuine engagement in our community.” The proposal included responsibilities and qualifications of members, expected time commitments, length of commitment, sources of support in the congregation. It will report to the Board.

MOTION: Establish the Belonging Task Force as specified in the proposal, effective immediately. (Motion: Kris Barker; second: Kent Richmond) Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Appoint Margot Horn as Chair of the Belonging Task Force. (Motion: Kris Barker; second: Kent Richmond) Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Dissolve the Membership Committee, effective immediately. (Motion: Kris Barker: second: Christine Harrell) Passed unanimously.

c. Leadership Development Team

The team is working to learn why people have left the church and conversely why people have joined. The team plans to develop means of training new people to become leaders, and to help those already involved in leadership understand how to do so. Results of the survey of the congregation conducted in June-September will be analyzed by member Lisa Christensen Gee and her husband, Matt Gee, who have agreed to look at the collected data, or, if they cannot proceed, by someone else.

Break 8:20-8:28

2. Assessment of Needs of Our Buildings

Joan reported that Errol Kirsch, the architect working with the Property Committee to assess the major needs of our buildings, presented that assessment to the members of the committee, board, and staff able to attend on Friday, October 14. As the amount required for addressing the full list is higher than \$2 million, higher than the amount we expect to be able to raise in the capital campaign, he also pointed out which work might have the greatest impact. The final report is in preparation, incorporating feedback during and after the Oct. 14 presentation, and will be provided to the capital campaign consultant as well as to the church.

Discussion:

- Joanne: Roof of Pennington center, roof on church, plumbing, sink hole in parking lot; finance is looking for more basic improvement and maintenance beyond additions
- Joan: \$58 thousand for new roof on Pennington Center, per the presentation. We need to learn whether the sink hole is the responsibility of the city or the church.
- Joanne: A general review of needed repairs and costs should appear in the report.

Mr. Kirsch will make a presentation about the assessment to the congregation. This presentation occur soon after the first presentation by the capital campaign consultant, on a separate date. Joan will write to the congregation with the timetable for the feasibility study and, if we go forward with it, the campaign itself.

3. Pending Policies

- a. The Social Justice Council has asked for review of council policies that it has developed. The document is not ready for approval, but the council's members would like to get the feedback of the Trustees. Joan summarized the status of the policy and asked that members review it before the November meeting, focusing on concepts rather than specific language. Anita was available at the end of the meeting to answer initial questions.
- b. Financial policies on donations and bequests to the endowment and/or for restricted purposes will be addressed at the November meeting.

- c. Discussion is underway among David, Joan, and Michael Knowles, Director of Operations, on appropriate space use charges to members, outsiders, and those who fall somewhere in between.

4 . Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of the minutes of the September 15 meeting was postponed to November.
- b. Joanne presented the monthly financial report, which reflects the budget revisions made by the board in September, and asked that the following motion be considered.
MOTION: Joanne Michalski replaces Richard Brown as the trustee of the accounts of the Society at WINTRUST Bank. (Motion: Kent Richmond; second: Jim Proctor). Passed unanimously.
- c. Reports of the treasurer, ministers, and interim religious education minister were accepted.

Jim offered closing words. Joan adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.