

**First Unitarian Church of Chicago
Minutes of December 15, 2016 Board Meeting**

Trustees Present:

Joan Pederson	President
Jim Proctor	Vice President
Kris Barker	
Margot Horn	
Dennis Koehn	
Christine Harrell	Alternate

Also Present:

Joanne Michalski	Treasurer
Julie Larson	Secretary
Rev. David Schwartz	Senior Co-Minister
Rev. Teri Schwartz	Senior Co-Minister

Joan called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Chalice Lighting by Joan, Opening remarks read by Jim Proctor. Check-in by those present followed from 7:10 to 7:25 pm.

1. RE Report

Karen was unable to present her report in person, but a detailed report was submitted for review from the board.

The highlights include:

- Proposed changes to the empty bowls program
- Programs that need to be dropped
- Programs that need to be enhanced
- How to successfully recruit RE teachers for a longer commitment
- Teri Schwartz suggested recruiting Meadville students, as this has worked previously

2. Fundraising

Three people have been contacted to handle the pledge campaign, with two possibly continuing on from this year.

It is suggested that the trustees active involvement in the capital campaign include:

- Making phone calls to get commitments to pledge circles
- Board members sit in the pledge circles to offer information and support

Auction will continue primarily as a silent auction, with a limited live auction, as this has proven successful. The need for better software to process checkout will be investigated.

3. Status Updates

Christine Harrell discussed the success of the Young Adults group. There were 8 attending the Thanksgiving function, 10 at the Christmas potluck.

Proposed additional YA programming:

Planning an ongoing 4th Sunday brunch

Connect with other UU YA Social Justice groups

Additional programming considerations for congregation:

Bi-monthly pot luck

Taize service

Theology on Tap

Margo Horne discussed the Belonging Taskforce initiatives:

Have a First Unitarian Sunday brunch group

Connect with newcomers via email and text, along with the current methods

David Schwartz discussed the new Website, reporting for the Communications Committee:

The new website will launch in January, with a streamlined approach to submitting information and asking questions. Sue Carlson is serving as webmaster, the new site is being hosted through Wordpress.

Jim Proctor discussed reinforcing knowledge of the UU Covenant, reporting for the Leadership Development Committee:

Posting posters

Distributing sheets for people to take with them

Dennis Koehn, also reporting for the Leadership Development Committee, reviewed the Survey Analysis, providing a handout with details for review.

Break 8:30-8:40

4. Capital Campaign

The Kirsch report was discussed and will be presented to the congregation 1/22 after service. Steve Pratapas's report regarding the feasibility study, deciding what needs to be addressed and in what order of priority, will be presented to the congregation on 1/29 after service. Teri Schwartz asked that we question others, and ourselves, how and where we would prioritize money raised by the capital campaign.

5. General Board Tasks

Jim Proctor moved, Dennis Koehn seconded that we approve the November minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Joanne Michalski presented the financial report, and there is enough money in the bank to get through the current expenses.

6. Ministers' Report

Teri and David Schwartz revised the ministers' report for December, discussing:

- Capital and Finance, including the Pledge Drive and Capital campaign

- 17 new members joined the church in December

- Ongoing Professional Development with Rev. Roger Bertschausen

- Improvements to the doors in Pennington Center's ground floor classrooms

7. Closing

Jim Proctor provided closing words and the meeting adjourned at 9:20