

**First Unitarian Society
Board Meeting**

April 15, 2009

Item	Decision/Action Required	Action Owner
Opening	Learning Curve Reading	Kathy Luker
Financial Update	<p><u>Annual campaign update.</u></p> <p>We continue to be ahead of last year's pace on the number of pledges for this time in the pledge cycle. However we see smaller average pledges so our projected pledge revenue may be lower, which could be a problem.</p> <p>The number of decreases in pledges is larger and the average amount of the decreases is larger. Brian thinks this is logical in this economic environment. It is to be expected that if a member is going to decrease he or she would probably not decrease by a small amount if a decrease seems warranted to the pledging member(s).</p> <p>We will continue with further follow-ups with non-responsive pledgers. We have done some followups using letters and emails already. We still must do more and this could involve more intensive efforts using phone calls.</p> <p><u>The budgeting process.</u> Susan sent out an email with a summary of the proposed process for reaching a balanced budget this year.</p> <p>We think that this coming year we should have a slight surplus of about \$45,000 more or less if we can rely on the pledges we still hope to get. We also need to start considering how to handle debt repayment in the coming years in order to be in a position to make permanent debt payments beginning in 2013.</p> <p>Some basic operating principles are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. We want to have a balanced budget2. We want to continue making operating debt payments3. We do not want to take on new responsibilities that we cannot sustain	Brian Hellmer Susan Koenig

There was general agreement that we want to follow those principles. There will be a special board meeting on April 29, 2009 to focus solely on the budget.

Classroom space – Isom House and other alternatives

The facilities committee is looking at classroom space alternatives because of the restrictions we currently are placing on ourselves in our religious education program due to lack of classroom space. It was agreed to get the following information together:

Kelly Crocker

1. Shorewood Hills requirements for the Isom House
2. An estimate of repairs for the Isom House – what is needed to do basic repairs on the 2nd floor and to secure the building “envelope”
3. Good estimates of our square footage used for religious education for our current classrooms
4. The rent for space on Marshall Court
5. A projection of space needs from Religious Education

Several individuals are working on getting this information. Kelly will work with religious education to get the data that is needed.

Brian Joiner has done some statistical work to help determine our religious education needs, particularly as our programs grow.

We monitor enrollment in various classes and at various times. Non members can enroll at a higher fee. We have a number of unanswered questions: Can non-members get in easier or not and how does this affect how we view our space needs? Can members or non-members get in mid-year? How are non-members and others affected if they are told “no” at the beginning of the year? Can we use the space differently and more efficiently? Are we using “all” of the space we currently have available?

General Assembly Voting Changes

There is a change in the General Assembly voting process. We can have absentee ballots this year so we should attempt to use all of our ballots. Previously only those present at GA could vote and we usually have had too many votes to use compared to the number of attendees from our congregation. Now it would be desirable to use all of our

votes. This is a particularly important year to consider this because the President of the UUA will be elected and there are two good candidates but they have distinctly different styles.

We need to consider whether to vote on a proportional ballot or vote a straight “up and down” ballot based on the parish vote of who to support. That is we would cast all thirty-one parish votes that we are allowed either one way or the other based on the parish vote at our annual meeting. Another alternative suggested by Michael is to have an advisory referendum at the parish meeting and then allow the delegates to vote their conscience.

There will be a forum on the 26th with both candidates for UUA President present. This will be part of an effort to educate the parish about these two candidates.

Michael proposed a way to do a proportional vote in a handout that he provided (see attachment). Kathy Luker moved to adopt the two proposals as presented by Michael in his handout. Management will bring a slate of delegates to vote the congregation’s ballots to the board for approval. This will include 21 pre-designated delegates, with 9 alternates. The remaining ten delegates will be chosen by the Denominational Affairs Committee. Brian seconded the motion. The process will be brought to the Board by email before the 26th. Susan has it on the management team agenda. The Motion Carried.

Discussion about Karen’s call	Closed Session	Entire Board
Approval Of Minutes	The March 18, 2009 minutes were unanimously Approved.	Tom Detmer
Michael’s Party	Details Discussed	Entire Board

List of Handouts:

Weekly Pledge Report
Budget Process Discussion
General Assembly Delegate Proposal
March 18, 2009 Minutes

Attendance:

Laurie Joiner, President
Kathy Luker, President Elect
Tom Detmer, Secretary
Brian Helmer, Treasurer
Sandy Eskrich, Trustee
Emily Cusic Moore, Trustee
Liza Munro, Trustee
Richard Miller, Trustee
Pamela Magee, Trustee
Michael Schuler, Parish Minister
Karen Gustafson, Minister
Kelly Crocker, Minister of Religious Education
Susan Koenig, Church Administrator
Dan Broner, Music Director