

First Unitarian Society Board of Trustees



Date:	February 17, 2010		
Time:	7 PM – 9 PM		
Location:	Gaebler Living Room		
Attendees:	Trustees and Executive Team: Emily Cusic, Cathi Weibrecht-Searer, Michael Schuler, Karen Gustafson, David Weber, Brian Helmer, Gary Leisman, Pamela Magee, Susan Koenig, Sandy Eskrich		
Materials in advance:	<p>“Compass Points from the Governing Board” (From Fox Valley UU Newsletter)</p> <p>Adult RE Report (coming Feb. 12-14)</p> <p>Background on Choir Tour Item</p> <p>FUS Budget Process Thoughts for 2010-11</p> <p>Disbursements from Foundation Documents</p> <p>January Minutes</p>		
Opening/Chalice Lighting by Lisa			
Review of Agenda			
<p>Development Report, introduction of Judith Siers-Poisson, Development Director as of March 3rd. Susan described the possibility of a 3rd Wave Capital Campaign Committee. This will be discussed further at the March Board meeting.</p> <p>Dave discussed the importance of the lay leaders being on board with the capital campaign as it is shared with the congregation. The Board agreed they would appreciate Dave drafting this letter for approval and publication in the next newsletter. Board members agreed to submit pledge by Wednesday of next week.</p>			
<p>Adult RE Report was reviewed by Kelly Crocker. Kelly also let the Board know that the Center for Creating a Healthy Mind is bringing a bestselling author to Madison as well as John Cabott-Zinn and both will be appearing in our Atrium Auditorium. Friday, June 4th the author’s appearance date and this will be advertized at the Dali Lama’s appearance in May. 560 children are enrolled our RE program and multiple guests are visiting weekly, 75 more then have previously been registered. Staffs are busy accommodating these new families and in the event staffing could be increased, a focus would be adult religious education programming. Currently, they have 2 weekly volunteers giving 8 hours regularly to the support of the program. Cross council collaboration continues to be a goal, but difficult to foster.</p>			
<p>Dan Bronner discussed the possibility of a Choir Tour as an opportunity to strengthen our music program as well as potential costs to members who participate. The sentiments of the board suggest participant’s engagement in the tour will likely strengthen their commitment in the Society generally. Dan will research ideas and talk with the Choir about the possibilities.</p>			

<p>Comments regarding budget guidelines/principles for 2010-11 were offered and reviewed by Brian. These consist primarily of the importance of a balanced budget that also ramps us up to a large debt payment in 2013. Some discussion took place about adding staff as a route to increasing growth in membership and in programs. The third wave of the capital campaign may give us some flexibility to reduce the debt commitment and allow us to fund the growth that we are seeking. Possibly consider a gradual ramp increase in staff FTE over the next few years to establish this as a priority. These ideas and guidelines were endorsed unanimously by the Board.</p>			
<p>Disbursements from FUS Foundation were distributed and discussed by Richard. The balance of this account is approximately \$190,000 which is invested in a balanced collection of investments. Approximately \$100,000 is paid out of this Foundation annually to support various purposes. It was noted that Brian's advice in regard to investments and Richard's guidance in structuring the payout schedules to be sustainable and stable are tremendously appreciated. The Board approved the reports as presented.</p>			
<p>Update on Task Force on Policy Development was discussed by Susan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accountable Reimbursement Policy proposal will go to the Steering Committee and to the Board in March. The ministerial discretionary funds may be more complex and follow. - Parking policy is being worked on currently 			
<p>Update on Process: Task Force on By-Laws</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Membership-related updates including definition of quorum for April Board consideration and eventually June Parish Meeting – group has not met recently but will be scheduling a meeting. - Charge Task Force on By-Laws to look at Voting, not addressed 			
<p>Two responses have been received from our RFP for a consultant for policy development. Susan Beaumont has declined and suggested one of the other consultants may be a better match for our needs. The proposals will be further reviewed by the Executive Team and brought to the Board in March.</p> <p>Approved January Minutes with the correction of number of pledge units from 851 to 815.</p>			
<p>NEXT MEETING WILL BE: March 17, 2010</p>			