

First Unitarian Society Board of Trustees Minutes

Date and Time: October 16, 2019 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Location: FUS, Gaebler Living Room

Attendees:

Trustees:

- Terri Pepper, President (Governance Committee)
- John McGevna, Secretary
- Dorit Bergen
- Thomas Dulmage (Personnel Committee)
- Rebecca Paradiso de Sayu
- Creal Zearing (Finance Committee)

Youth Advisors:

- Elinor Hill-Gorman

•Clergy and Staff:

- Doug Wadkins
- Kelly Crocker
- Monica Nolan
- Carin Bringelson

Terri opened the meeting and members of the board did a quick check-in on their reactions to the Hotchkiss retreat. Members were very positive on the structure of the presentations and his thoughts on governance and open questions.

CONSENT AGENDA

Terri went over the agenda for the evening and an overview of the various task forces, the Hotchkiss retreat.

DISCUSSION

Sanctuary Task Force

Dorit reported on an asylum family being cared for by a member church of the Dane Coalition. Volunteer training for “know your rights” was conducted at FUS for 11 people. We can only do one asylum or one sanctuary at a time. Dorit thinks we could not have multiple adults and multiple children in sanctuary because the building is too open. Tom asked pertinent questions about the staff report.

Ministerial Research Task Force

We had a discussion on what the task force matrix would contain. The Task force will attempt to highlight the salient points of each congregation for the board. What type of ministry does each church team have. How does it relate to the congregation. Discussion was also undertaken on how we communicate to the larger congregation the type of ministry we are looking for as our new minister.

September Parish Meeting Review

Kelly was concerned that we were just barely at quorum for the parish meeting with 71 people present at the start of the meeting. We looked at various methods to increase the advertisement of upcoming meetings. Have meetings in different venues at different times. Views of the Parish meeting were very positive and thought we had very good feedback.

HOTCHKISS RETREAT

Annual Planning Cycle

Own the place on behalf of the mission--not the statement, the missional identity or why we exist, what do members carry with them.

A small number of people symbolize the partnership between staff, board, and congregation
Board make a motion should be clear about if it is a policy or not.

Policy is intended to guide decision making away from the board table

Could this be done by policy? Answer the immediate need and policy need

ROLE OF THE BOARD

No one has exclusively a top leadership function

Conversations at all levels can be consultative and participatory

Open Questions process is very public

You always have an open question (2-3 questions) and always have a vision of ministry.

Questions for Dan

- what questions do you ask at the beginning of an hour of talking about the vision of ministry?
- samples of the strategic plan that are good examples connecting open questions to the strategic plan.

Find a date for board/staff get together.

Are we going to renew our vision of ministry this year?