

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2019

Presiding: Anthony Salvi

Process

Observer: Kaye Cook

Secretary: Rich Williams

Attendees: Betsy Bicknell; Scott Kestner; Kaye Cook; Rich Williams; Milo Valenzuela, Paul Atelsek; Rev. David Miller; Anthony Salvi; Ashley Rothermel; Peggy Hillman

Check-In

7:31 PM

Spiritual Opening /Chalice Lighting:

Rich Williams

Herman Hesse, "What I Learned From Trees"

Minutes of February 19th Meeting

Rich Williams

– Approved/Adopted As Amended

Board Agenda Planning Item: The proposal and agreement is to proceed with one meeting each month focused on board business and the second on strategic planning.

I. Minister's Report

- Cash Flow: We continue to be in a difficult cash flow position as payments are down and we have drawn \$42,000 from reserves. Pledges are behind so another quarterly letter is to be sent out in March. We are at \$930,000 compared with \$948,000 in projected revenue at this point with \$918,000 received from pledges and new member contributions. In general, though, our expenses are running as expected.
- Raccoons: Two had taken up residence in the Sanctuary and were trapped and relocated.
- DRE Applications: We have only received two applications. As a comparison, during Cedar Lane's DRE search, only received three applications. It appears that potential candidates are not applying either due to not wanting to relocate and or few are single
- Assistant Minister Search: It's been decided not to pursue the candidacies of the initial applicants. As a second round, the team is looking into who to contact that are currently in residence.
- Search Committees: Both committees have been outstanding.
- Annual Budget: We have completed a first pass at developing next year's budget.
- Set-Ups: We continue to struggle managing this process with loss of our staff member and there are a lot of rentals. We are considering using Sign-Up Genius to help. To cover for, we will be contracting with a cleaning service.

II. Executive Session

Motion To Move To Executive Session: Anthony/Second: Milo/Approved

Motion: To Close Executive Session – Ashley/Second: Milo/Approved.

III. Continue Strategic Discussion and Action Plan Update

- Who: We have not identified who we are in the future. We have discussed the traits that will characterize our future but not identified people to focus on.
- How: From Ashley's research, a broad spectrum across the UU world.
- Alternative/casual worship environments.
- Online – more in the realm of video podcasts and live streaming. The Church of the Larger Fellowship is strictly online. There are also prison ministries.
- Sanctuary and the Sacred Fire program lending to young adults.

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- New Orleans area UU congregations' resource sharing and community events.
- All Souls UU in Tulsa - a bus for use on Sundays, youth trips, etc. Also using talent within its congregation with a printing press, publishing books. It was Tulsa that purchased property in the downtown urban area and moved there. Congregants have gone into neighborhoods to help fix up residences.
- A question is not necessarily how do we get to people but how do we bring people to us. We need to look at how we deliver things.
- Here in Fairfax County, our asset is our property and there is a decreasing amount of land in the county with increasing urbanization. Fairfax Presbyterian is planning to build low-income housing on its property - 10 townhouses on 8.25 acres. In the next 30 years, the county will continue transforming from a suburban to a denser urban area. Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments forecasts that 78% of Fairfax County growth will occur in regional activity centers such as Tysons, the Dulles Corridor and the Route 28 Corridor. Even now there are areas with high-population density to reach.
- What if we sold our property and moved? Our current location is accessible for those who can drive here but not for those who need to use public transportation. Do we move away from the idea of having a Waldenesque-type location? We have to be where the people are that we want to serve. Should we sell and build a community-centered facility similar to what Columbia has done? What do we think the value is of our current property? (Ref: "UU World" Spring 2019 article "Sustainable Elegance in Iowa").
- We need to talk to people, listen to people, to learn what they would want. This listening process is essentially what has been occurring with the Young Adult Ministry project. And while the prospect of space in downtown Fairfax City may not be likely soon, they are listening, causing, looking to gather in a meaningful way. The young adults have also met in Arlington and the Mosaic District.
- What do we do with all this that we have been discussing? For our next discussion, we should try to make sense of these concerns with the thought of organizing focus groups and getting the discussion started.
- Milo offered to prepare a scatter map showing where our current congregants reside.

III. White Supremacy Discussion

- Deferred

Board Observations

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None

Process Observer

Kaye Cook

The meeting generated good discussions. Members came prepared to speak and were respectful.

Adjourned

10:23 PM

Next Meeting

Date: March 19, 2019

Spiritual Opening: TBD

Process Observer: Betsy Bicknell

Respectfully Submitted: Richard Williams