

First Unitarian Church of Des Moines

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting
Thursday September 8, 2016, 5:30 PM

Present: Zac Bailey, Jean Rommes, Katy Philby, Steve Evans, Heidi Lackmann, Mike Stimson

Staff: Mark Stringer

Absent: Nina Richtman, Shelly Kalderman, Steve Coverdale

Zac Bailey called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM with opening words.

The meeting began with a discussion of the “within” ends. We wanted to define what these ends mean to us and to others and to try to find ways that Mark and his staff can measure them. We started with questions: Where do these occur? At Sunday services; through connections made; relationships; memorial services; stories; not easily explained. What is wonder? Coming of age service; opening space for people to share at a deeper level and feel safe and comfortable; fostering safe open space; semi-permanent sense of personal shock that we’re members of this church and serving in this capacity. Sense of comfort; giving space for connecting; create an environment where a spiritual experience is more likely; development of community. How can we help achieve these in a different way (recognizing that not everyone comes to Sunday services; where does this experience happen?)? How does Adult RE contribute to this? How do we measure that we’re making a difference in people’s lives? Changes in attendance patterns noted (fewer attendees at Sunday services; larger attendance on Wednesdays). Small group churches, like a covenant group was discussed. Bridging the gaps with other congregations from all levels of involvement and beliefs; scheduling visits to different groups. A survey could help answer some of these questions. We will discuss “among” next month.

Connections committee: Has not met yet; Mike will get the group together.

Mark introduced the stewardship focus groups that will be occurring over the next few months; these could be something the connections committee participates in and helps set up.

Steve has questions regarding the Endowment Investment Committee and the by-laws; the Endowment Investment committee will discuss this and bring the issues to the Board.

Ministerial evaluation committee will be meeting in October.

Endowment disbursement committee is Looking at how recipients of the REACH grants acknowledge the grant. They are considering developing a logo that would be displayed as appropriate.

Executive report: dashboards and historical comparisons to previous giving suggested specifically for the Faith in Action program. Details of Family Promise week were discussed.

Financials: There were several questions regarding what certain entries and titles meant.

Approval of August minutes: Stimson moved; Evans seconded, unanimously approved.

Stewardship weekend: The Board meets Friday with Ewart 7:00 to 9:00; Sunday 12:30 to 2:30 report. Various groups meet with him on Saturday.

Evans moved to adjourn, Philby seconded. Meeting ended at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Jean Rommes