

UUSMC Board of Trustees

Minutes

February 22, 2017

Attendance: Judy Pappenhagen, MQ Riding, Michele Cavanaugh, Seetha Coleman-Kammula, Vicky Tosh-Morelli, Greg Pelley, Adam Kegley

Excused: Larry Stomberg, Stephen Selph

Chalice Lighting, Spiritual Gathering and Reflection

Approval of Minutes

January 25th minutes were approved with changes submitted by Steve.

Finance Committee and Bequest Discussion:

Adam presented a review of the current budget versus the previous 4 years and highlighted areas of challenge. These include loss of some top pledges, reduced facility rental income (the karate studio had rented for 2 years), increases in some salaries to bring them in line with fair compensation, increases in Sunday Services expenses for music and speakers.

We have been able to make up any shortfalls by drawing on reserves and have been lucky enough to receive gifts each year that made up any budget shortfall.

With the receipt of two large undesignated gifts, the finance committee believes we should focus on shoring up the foundation of the church. The largest impact we can have is to pay down the debt on the mortgage.

We could cut our mortgage in half with a principal paydown. The bank would recalculate the payment with no fees or change in interest saving us approximately \$20,000 per year.

Further discussion was held on using some of the funds for specific projects and recognition of the gifts as well as, a discussion of pros & cons, tactics for soliciting leadership gifts for additional debt reduction.

Any decision of this magnitude needs to be brought to a congregational vote.

The board approved support of the finance committee recommendation to put \$219,000 towards the mortgage debt reduction to be presented to the full congregation.

The board also approved a motion to pursue lead gift commitments to support paying down the debt.

If/when we get additional commitments, it will be presented to the full congregation as an additional giving opportunity.

The board extends tremendous thanks to Adam, Lauri, and the finance committee for working so hard on the budget and this proposal.

Staffing/RE Report

MQ reported that we will move forward with staffing the RE program with the confidence that the money will be available with needed. An ad and job description(s) will be created to share with other churches, posted online.

The board approved two (2) quarter-time positions (10 hours per week) plus an additional 5 hours per week for Debbie Damiani to handle additional administrative duties related to RE.

Minister's Report: no actions needed

Stewardship Team:

Holding a meeting on March 19 for the congregation with a theme of Generosity. Will include lunch following the service. Goal is to hold a 6 month drive to reset the pledge year.

Alongside this, Greg wants to highlight people who are generous with their time and energy in the congregation. Send suggestions to Greg.

DNA Process: Next meeting is on February 25. Lunch included.

Annual Meeting: Date for the next annual meeting has been set for June 4.

Other: the board is going to test our ZOOM web conferencing to allow us to meet remotely in the future.