

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH
Congregational Meeting for Social Justice
Sunday, September 27, 2015

- I. Moderator Caleb Shulman called the meeting to order at 1:08 PM.
- II. Tellers: Anne Perry and Sue Schwardt.
- III. The minutes of the May 31, 2015 congregational meeting were approved as submitted.
- IV. Social Justice Speaker
 - A. Kaylin, a teen involved with Teen Empowerment, reported on various aspects of their program. They are one of the Greater Good Recipients of last year.
- V. Board Report – President Barbara de Leeuw
 - A. Barbara reports that a \$130,000 income shortfall is anticipated for this church year.
 1. What is needed to close the gap is 66¢ a day (\$20 a month) per pledge unit.
 2. We will spend the next 4 – 6 weeks trying various ways to decrease the shortfall and then, if needed, will adjust spending to match income.
 3. The board will host a forum on October 18 at 12:30pm to answer questions on this topic.
 - B. The congregation was given a report on what was happening with the roof.
- VI. Social Responsibility Council
 - A. John Keevert introduced the topics to be covered today and reviewed the group's activities over the past year.
 1. He thanked Rev. Emily Hartnett Liefert and Veronica Howard for their work with the council.
 2. Mary Palmer and Tom Petrillo are new members of the Grants Panel.
 3. Tom Perry and Betty Neuman are new members of the council and Paul Minor is the new co-chair.
 - B. Social Justice Coordinator Report – Veronica
 1. Her report touched on many of the activities of the council and pointed out that the monthly newsletter article which she writes is a good way to keep abreast of the church's activities in this area.
 - C. Paul Minor discussed information which came out of the Roots and Wings process.
 - D. Tasks Forces – Paul Minor
 1. Paul explained what they are and what they do.
 2. There are no new groups looking for task force status this year, but each of the three approved last year have asked to be approved for this church year.
 3. Each of those three task forces presented what they did, were prepared to answer questions (none were asked), and then they were each approved without a negative vote.
 - a. The task force involved with microfinancing works exclusively with underserved clients in Rochester.
 - b. The Honduras Project Task Force works to ensure that good, clean water is available and supports education by supplying educational materials and funding scholarships.

- c. The environmental task force talked about environmental problems which must be addressed and how their various subgroups are doing this.

VII. RAIHN – Dave Teegarden

- A. Volunteers
 - 1. 10% of the volunteers are from Temple Beth El.
 - 2. Dave asks for more people to become involved so one wouldn't have to volunteer too many times per session.

VIII. School Partnership – Andrea Porter and Joe Simson co-chairs

- A. The partnership is involved with tutoring programs at schools #15 and #22, the weekend food backpack program and collecting clothing and other supplies for the school communities.
- B. Eighty-eight volunteers from church and community are involved.
- C. This year both schools have relocated, #15 temporarily and #22 permanently.
- D. More volunteers are needed.

IX. Connect and Breathe – KaeLyn Rich

- A. It is now a 503(c)(5) organization which is an offshoot of a task force that existed at the church.
- B. It is all volunteer and she gave us some statistics of the timing of calls and such.
- C. They are adding Wednesday evening to the times that they can have conversations.

X. Guon Child Care – Ann Barker

- 1. The child care center is on the MCC Campus and was the other Greater Good Recipient from last year.
- 2. She explained that our money was used to support a particular staff member.

XI. The meeting adjourned at 2:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Friedman