

Fountain Street Church Foundation

Board Meeting at FSC Room 109

Minutes of Sept. 18, 2023

Members present: Nancy Ayres, Bill Brunner, Charlie Gallmeyer, Liz Bullock, Patrick Eaman, Chris VanAntwerp, Todd Fettig (Bob Chapla, TJ Norris absent)

Staff present: Rev. Christopher Roe

I. Call to order and welcome

Nancy Ayres, co-chair, called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.

II. Minutes

- A. Approval of Aug. 21, 2023, meeting minutes: Liz Bullock moved, Patrick Eaman seconded. Minutes approved.
- B. Minutes recorder: Todd Fettig to record the September meeting minutes. Charlie Gallmeyer to record the October minutes.

III. Staff report

The Rev. Christopher Roe reported that financial policies and the future of the bell tower would be the major topics at the Governing Board meeting tonight.

- A. The staff supports greater transparency regarding salaries, which will be discussed during the Governing Board meeting.
- B. Future church budgets will show the allocation from the Foundation Board, if the Governing Board approves proposed changes to how the budget is drafted.
- C. The Stewardship Committee plans to become the Annual Giving Committee, for the sake of clarity.

Rev. Roe's report led to discussion among the Foundation Board. That discussion included:

- A. Recognition and appreciation that Laurie Ridders, director of business and finance, would track contributions to the Liberal Legacy Society.
- B. Understanding that the Foundation Board's endowment committee will develop a process to write thank you notes to LLS donors. The Foundation Board chairs will write thank you notes to estate donors.
- C. Support for granting LLS Lifetime status to those who give \$5,000 to the Second Century Campaign.

- D. The co-chairs will discuss granting Michael May LLS Lifetime status for his contributions and in-kind services in helping to sell the Anita Gilleo property.
- E. For a future discussion, Bill Brunner asked if we should revisit the \$5,000 threshold for gaining LLS Lifetime status. Is that amount outdated and too low?
- F. Nancy Ayres applauded Austin McWilliams and The Rev. Roe for creating the section leaders in the choir.

IV. Financial report

Tim Creamer reported that the fund balance gained about \$78,000 in July, and lost about \$80,000 in August, with the markets fluctuating.

- The balance stood at \$4,038,934.18 as of Aug. 31, 2023.
- Gifts were up for the period, including a \$1,000 gift.

V. Co-chair report

Nancy Ayres reported that as of today, the fund balance stood at almost \$4.1 million. This includes funds from the sale of the Gilleo property.

VI. Governing Board report

Liaison George Zuiderveen mentioned the Board would discuss making staff salaries public.

VII. Endowment committee

Regarding the Fall Reception, Chris VanAntwerp reported that 47 people had made reservations to attend the event. He is going to include reminders in The Beat newsletter. He also said he will work with Rev. Roe and staff to make sure Marie Penny, the event caterer, is able to claim her work as an in-kind donation.

Also regarding the reception:

- Todd will make notes of appreciation to Midwest Capital, for its wine Donation.
- At the reception, each of us should deploy to separate tables and have conversations with those who attend.
- New nametags, with the new FSC logo, will be available.
- Charlie Gallmeyer will follow up with Marilyn Lankfer, who will speak about estate planning.

Patrick Eaman and Liz Bullock chatted with Kayle Clements, director of events and programs, about tracking donations through the Church Center. Kayle said staff would have capacity to create a permanent record and to supply a monthly report to the Foundation Board.

- Kayle recommended using a Google Sheet for tracking gifts and allowing us to keep notes.
- Liz said pending decisions by the Governing Board, regarding donor privacy, will determine how we track specific information.
- We will need:
 - a way of maintaining contact and relationships with estate donors.
 - to develop a way to curate and preserve the donor information form.
 - to know tiers of giving, not necessarily exact dollar amounts.

VIII. Visibility

Todd Fettig reported that the quarterly newsletter published in early September and readership remained strong. He also reported that postcards to promote the Annual Reception were mailed before Labor Day.

- Chris V. mentioned that the archive of newsletters needs to be updated on the website. Todd said he would work with Katie Bush, administrative assistant, to update the website going forward.

IX. Bell tower

Tim Creamer said the Governing Board tonight will discuss next steps. The Governing Board will need to let contractors know how FSC will move forward. First, the Governing Board wants to have discussions with the congregation.

- The plan is to monitor the tower through the winter, to make sure it's not further significantly damaged.
- The Governing Board will lead discussions on the Second Century Campaign, its scope, and the next steps.

X. Leadership connections

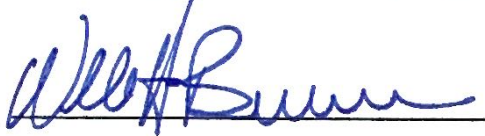
Bill Brunner reminded everyone that there will be two openings on the Foundation Board at the end of the year. Two women will leave the Board, and we should be mindful of that as we select candidates. Bill mentioned seven possible candidates. He said he would reach out to them, to determine who might be interested in joining the Foundation Board. The co-chairs would follow up with those who express an interest.

XI. New business
None.

XII. Next meeting: Oct. 16, 2023, at 4 p.m., FSC Room 109 or via Zoom.

XIII. Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Minutes approved Oct. 16, 2023.

 William Brunner, secretary.