

# First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau

## September 21, 2021

**Participants:** Randy Jefferson, Josh Wright, Dawn Aschenbrenner, Sheryl Hemp, Brian Mason, Karen Monarski, Kara Hall, Brian Stezenski-Williams

**Guests:** Tom Eberlein, Kelly Fischer,

### I. **Agenda Consent and Repair**

- Dawn A. motioned to approve, Karen M. 2<sup>nd</sup>, approved unanimously

### II. **Approval of the August minutes**

- Dawn A. motioned to approve, Karen M. 2<sup>nd</sup>, approved unanimously

### III. **Treasurer's Report**

- Total Income YTD through August was \$278,527.67. Total Expenses were \$240,560.70, producing a Net Income of \$37,966.97. We are still in the black thanks to our PPP Loan, \$39,752.42.  
August pledge receipts were \$9,134.00. Year to date total of pledges received plus prepaid allocation was \$220,117.20 which is 93.1% of budget, \$236,342.00. Hopefully the start of the new church year will be marked by
- Randy noted that an increase in pledge receipts now that the new Church has begun would be helpful.
- Karen M. motioned to approve the financial report, Josh W, 2<sup>nd</sup>, approved unanimously

### IV. **Updates Endowment Committee Update**

- Tom Eberlein, chair of the Endowment Committee (EC) introduced himself
- The EC meets quarterly
- The committee includes: Board President, Board Treasurer, Tom E., Dan Schaut, Jerry Phalen
- Last met on August 30
- Fund value \$500k+
- Legacy gift pushed the total to \$691k+
- The EC is encouraging "legacy giving"
- Old business, loan, to pay for emergency repairs...this loan still stands, but no specific timeline
- Would like to build the fund to the point where it could pay for some Church operations
- Still debating what the what the tipping point is
- Randy stated again that there is a significant need to increase legacy gifts to help offset operating expenses...now is the time to ask, the future for the UU Church looks bleak if we do not establish the increased support

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**V. Minister and Staff Reports (Consent agenda)**

- Reverend Brian Mason expressed strong concerns about the impact of COVID on church attendance... our efforts to ensure safety are making it harder to come to Church
- These challenges make it very hard to raise funds as well
- Wants the Board to focus on the budget for 2022
- Kara H. motioned to approve, Dawn A. 2<sup>nd</sup>, approved unanimously

**VI. Bounce Back Plan**

- Staff is not recommending any changes at this point

**VII. Stewardship and Budget Update**

- The process of putting together the basic expenses has begun
- Reverend Mason is also working on performance reviews
- Stewardship drive has begun, Carl Drake spoke to the congregation on 9/19/21
- Randy J. suggested again that we should publicly share the amounts people are giving (without name attributes) so that everyone understands how over-dependent we are on large gifts
- The Board will look at the first draft of the 2022 budget @October Board meeting

**VIII. President's Report –**

- Sheryl reminded everyone that we had 2 email votes that occurred since the last Board meeting
  - The Board voted to take money out of reserves to fund a process taken up in closed session
  - The Board voted to follow CDC and Marathon County Health Department guidance about masking once the community transmission rate suddenly moved to substantial

**IX. Board Development Update**

- Joyce Kurth is going off at the end of 2021
- Dawn A. noted that recruiting has become very difficult with the infrequency of people attending Church during the pandemic
- Reverend Mason expressed optimism about finding additional Board candidates and members

**X. Board Move to Closed Session**

- Motion by Dawn A., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Randy J., approved unanimously

**XI. Meeting Adjournment**

- Motion to adjourn by Karen M., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kara H., approved unanimously