**First Unitarian Church of St. Louis**

**2023 Midwinter Meeting Minutes**

**21 January 2023 held in person(!!) in Fellowship Hall**

Festivities began at 5:30 pm with appetizers (provided by attendees) and wine (provided by the Church). Fellowship Hall was pleasantly full for our first Midwinter Meeting in three years!

At about 6:00 pm we participated in an ice-breaking activity, First Unitarian Church People Bingo, which encouraged us to talk to up to 24 different folks to discover who got socks for Christmas, who likes chocolate, and other fascinating facts.

After our potluck dinner, **Policy Board** **President Steve Wilke** noted our church’s need for multiple infrastructure repairs. He then introduced **Margaret Weck** of the **Nominations and Leadership Development Committee**. Margaret gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining our church’s governance structure and highlighting the need to fill a number of positions for the next fiscal year on the Policy Board and the Church Council. We need a President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Trustees for the Policy Board, and a Council Chair and Chairs for the Facilities, Growth and Engagement, and Programming Clusters. Her PowerPoint presentation is available here: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1rdS4RL-U7aK7YFd150veFvmrPjB8RGa1ABHx3J3v4Z8/edit#slide=id.g10cd004cb9b_0_209>

Following Margaret’s presentation, the **Rev. Kim Mason** read our church’s Mission statement as a segue way into our next group exercise: a brain-storming activity that was part of our church’s ongoing effort to articulate a Vision statement. Tables were provided with paper and markers and were instructed to work with another table and write down a list of values that are important to us as members of our congregation. A member from each group then came forward and highlighted a shorter list of the values that group members thought were the most important. Afterwards, the lists were posted on the wall and we were given sticker dots to indicate the three values that were most important to us individually. Rev. Kim Mason and Steve Wilke then presented a summary of the most popular responses, indicated by topics that received 10 or more votes. And the winners are:

1. Connectedness and Community
2. Open-mindedness and Welcoming
3. Service and Compassion
4. Knowledge and Learning

The meeting concluded at approximately 8:20 pm. Attendees left with full hearts and bellies.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Lamothe,

Policy Board Secretary