

Faithful Action Leadership Council (FALC)
First Universalist Church of Minneapolis
January 11, 2016 7:00-8:30
SUMMARY

Communications

Taylor updated the council that the call for partnership applications will be promoted in the Liberal. Taylor also discussed that he is working with Jenn S. to put together a log that documents faithful action at First Universalist. The purpose of the log would be to create a “snapshot” of faithful action at the end of the church year. Taylor will present more at the next meeting.

Partnership Update

Marjorie updated the council on the partnership applications. She said that the application was distributed to each of the team leaders; members of the partnership group called each of the leaders to see if they had any questions. Council members should plan on stopping by the church office on or around February 7 to pick up the completed application packets. Emma shared that she is putting together an evaluation sheet that council members will complete before the next meeting. The partnership group recommends that some partners be endorsed for one year and others for two years. This will give FALC a staggered evaluation process and also give the one-year endorsed partners the opportunity to address questions and opportunities. The council reviewed the proposed meeting agenda for February. The group then discussed the evaluation, next steps, successful partnership criteria, and how FALC can be a full partner to the community organizations.

Advocacy Working Group

Joan N. discussed that two other priorities of FALC should be to heighten Advocacy and Tools, Training, and Evaluation. Since the MN legislative session is fast approaching, the advocacy group will begin first. The Tools, Training, and Evaluation group will follow in mid-spring. The council learned about the difference between service and social justice. The goal of FALC is to put a structure behind advocacy for the first year. Joan shared that FALC isn't trying to change the world this year but continue working through partners on their legislative goals. For example, she shared the upcoming advocacy work that Beacon and Habitat for Humanity will ask First Universalist members to engage in.

Joan shared that there's a lot of opportunities for First Universalist to focus on systemic change. FALC's job is to figure out how to coordinate that work, communications and messaging. Stan talked about responding to short term actions as compared to longer

campaigns. Justin highlighted that it will be important for FALC and others to reflect on what it mean to advocate as a person of faith.

Reflection/discussion

The group spent a significant amount of time discussing the anonymous survey that council members completed before attending the meeting to gauge their thoughts on the direction of FALC. While there was a lot of discussion, some of the topics that were discussed include heightening the awareness of FALC among the congregation, recognizing faithful action, having FALC get out in front of groups, increasing the size of FALC, and continuing to work through a racial justice lens.

The next Council meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 16.

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Contact FALC Secretary Taylor Putz at teputz94@gmail.com