

UUCOV Board of Trustees

February 9, 2016

Minutes

Call to Order

The Board President, Joel Morrison, called the meeting to order at 9:40 am, which was followed by a check in time.

The Board Secretary, Bill Dowling, called the roll of voting board members all of whom were present: Joel Morrison, Earl Braumruck, Peter Hurley, Dave Lyons, Bill Dowling, Linda Kabo and Marian Fox.

Nonvoting ex-officio minister Khleber Van Zandt was present..

The President declared that a quorum of voting board members was present, as defined in the bylaws.

Approval of Minutes

The Secretary presented minutes of the January 12, 2016 meeting. The minutes were accepted as presented.

Monthly Reports and Correspondence

President's Remarks

Joel requested recommendations for member recognition awards to be presented at the Annual Meeting.

Joel brought up the Minister's Compensation package, which needed to be in sync with the church fiscal year. Peter will make the necessary adjustments and present it as an amendment at the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Peter presented a Financial Summary as of January. We are in very good financial shape.

We received a large donation for next year, which was transferred to the operating reserve account; bringing it to just over \$78,280.

Peter also transferred \$12,000 to capital reserve and \$2,025 to the Memorial Wall Fund, which brings the capital fund to \$50,361.

We ended to month with \$42,044.84 in our operating fund.

We took in \$35,408 in income and spent 23,614.

The Treasurer' report is incorporated into the minutes as Attachment A.

Minister's Report

We welcomed 8 new members after the recent Pathways class.

Energy has seemed extremely high during the last few Sundays , and the Pledge Drive testimonials, "Why I Pledge," have been very well received.

The Feb. 6th concert by Jim Scott was a huge success both financially and in terms of bringing in a huge number of visitors, some of who attended church the following day.

The “Just Mercy” Week of events was very well received and attended. Thanks to Jaye Williams and Bonnie Norton for organizing and to everyone else who worked so hard to make it happen.

The Communications group has been very effective of late in getting word out about the programs being offered, and we have had a good number of visitors to recent events because of that.

On January 31st, I participated in the Installation of Rev. Patrice Curtis as Minister of the UU’s of Clearwater.

Three of our members attended OWL training recently and are planning to offer sessions soon; we are advertising among local religious organizations and non-profits to let them know of this opportunity for their kids.

We are planning to host a workshop and presentation on Religious Education for the UUA’s Southern Region in May in our sanctuary.

I am in the midst of facilitating an eight-session workshop called “Aging and Spirituality” that has been very successful so far.

I am also facilitating a twelve-week series on Islam; several members of the general public have been in attendance.

I am preparing to facilitate a six-week series entitled “UU&You!,” an exploration of our chosen faith.

I am planning to attend each of the 8 to 10 “Pledge Gatherings” of the Pledge Drive.

I continue on the Board of the Venice Interfaith Community Association (VICA).

Coordinating Council Report

Earl did not have anything to report regarding the Coordinating Council.

Other Reports and Informational Items

Update on Powerchurch and Vanco

Joel reported that a committee of eight has been formed to implement the new Powerchurch data and financial system.

A decision regarding using the Vanco on-line payment system is still under review.

Pledge Campaign update

Joel reported that a pledge request letter has been sent to the congregation. There also will be around eight to ten pledge gatherings where individuals in a small group setting will explore their relationship with the church and share its importance to them.

Reverend Khleber will be attending the gatherings.

Unfinished Business

Progress on A/V Problem

The issue of A/V supports for UUCOV sponsored activities at the Sanctuary was reviewed. It was agreed that Erin would be paid \$20 per hour and the monies would come from the sponsoring entities budget.

UUCOV definition of Adult

The YRE Committee is developing criteria for adult supervision as it pertains to the age grouping of those being supervised. It will differentiate adult as it pertains to supervision of children and young adults.

Reactivation of Wish List

The wish review had its final review. On a motion by Marian, which was seconded, the board approved the wish list procedures and its inclusion in the Finance Policies.

Pursuit of reimbursement for 3 months of electricity from FPL

Joel will write a letter to FPL seeking reimbursement for Sanctuary electricity charges that were unnecessarily incurred because of FPL's failure to timely meet its required approval process.

New Business

Annual Meeting March 19, 2016 planning

Joel reviewed information for the annual meeting, which must be announced by February 17. The meeting will be on a Saturday at 4 pm., which is a departure from previous meetings held on Sunday. The two services on Sunday made it desirable to select an alternative day.

FPL "Electricity Demand" issues

Bill explained a complication discovered in the Sanctuary solar electricity arrangement. It is related to the FPL's "demand" criterion for electricity usage, which measures how much electricity, is used at a point in time instead of over a billing period. The solar system is generating an excess of electricity monthly, but the Sanctuary has also experienced several demand spikes, which, because of the rate schedule employed by FPL, reduces the expected savings from the solar panels. The Facilities and Grounds group are investigating the issue and a solution is anticipated.

Coordinating Council Membership for FY 17

Joel reviewed with the board the names of individuals who have agreed to or are considering heading most of the groups in the Coordination Council. There are several groups where volunteers are still being sought. Joel expects to have a full complement to share at the the next board meeting.

Steve Leapley's letter and response

Steve's letter addressed the issue of moving chairs between the Sanctuary and other campus buildings, and the problems it created. He suggested a solution that would replace the current chairs with a lighter and stackable type that could be easily manipulated.

Steve also identified the current hymnal placement arrangement under the chairs as problematic and suggested they be moved to shelving provided for that purpose.

The letter is incorporated into the minutes as Attachment B.

The board appreciated Steve's concerns and suggestions. It decided to refer the matter to the Facilities and Grounds group for further study and to submit a report with recommendations. Bill, as a member of that group volunteered to work with Richard Palmer on the report. Joel made a motion that the F&G Group "provide a study and cost estimate that addresses the Sanctuary's flexible seating needs and hymnal storage arrangement, as well as the chairs and storage needs of Room A in the Asta Linder House", which was seconded and approved.

Annual Report

Joel reviewed the timelines for the various reports that are part of the Annual Meeting s well as the necessary financial and other document.

Comments for the Good of the Congregation

None

Next Scheduled Meeting

The next meet is scheduled for March 8, 2016 9:30AM at the Asta Linder House.

Adjournment

Joel adjourned the meeting at 11:45 AM

3-8-16

Bill Dowling, Secretary

Date accepted by the Board

Attachment B

Board Proposal

To: Rev. Khleber Van Zandt and the Board of Directors
Re: Thoughts on seating and hymnals
Date: February 1, 2016

After having moved our sanctuary chairs on numerous occasions, and dealing with the resulting "hymnal fallout," I have come up with a couple of suggestions.

Regarding the hymnals, Eileen and I have visited other UU congregations, and found that those congregations have placed their hymnals on racks or shelves either on the walls of, or outside of the sanctuary, accessible to those who wish to use them. Upon speaking to other members of our congregation, they recall similar setups at other UU buildings. Since we now have the hymns on the front screen, I feel that having hymnals under every chair is unnecessary. If they were on racks, shelves, or tables, to be taken and replaced by congregants who want to use them, it would make it considerably easier to move chairs around. We might even consider racks or shelves being constructed in our new woodworking shop.

Regarding seating, as we can all tell, we are a growing congregation, and especially in season, we are crowded. *Because of monetary constraints, it will be some time before we can enlarge our present sanctuary or build a new building.* I am therefore going to suggest an interim solution. If we change the type of seating that we presently have to lighter, but sturdy, molded chairs, we could solve several problems.

The lighter chairs would be easier to handle and move, and because of their smaller size, we could fit more seating in our present sanctuary. They would also be stackable.

A quick Internet search shows that Costco.com offers a hundred-pack of shell stacking chairs in red, blue, or black, for \$3,400. These are sturdy, and stackable to twelve. My suggestion with our present chairs would be to find a climate-controlled storage facility to store them in until we need them for a new building. *We could probably negotiate a reasonable price with one of the local facilities.*

We do have to consider that most of us are unable physically to be wrestling with the chairs, and since we have space constraints and numerous events that require the seats be moved, I feel this would be a worthwhile expenditure. I would be glad to follow up on either or both of these suggestions, if there is an interest on the part of the Board and the Minister.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Leapley

