

January 24, 2012 Minutes

Attending: Mary Lee Keane, Norman Matlock, Linda O'Gwynn, Tom Ott, Walt Ceglowski, Andrea Parry, Betsy Gabriel, Mark Bernstein, and Leni Windle

Non-board members attending: Kent Matthies

November minutes approved.

Finance:

There was no finance report this month. However, the finance committee has offered to provide an orientation to board members regarding church finances. The date to be determined.

Lee Meinicke has put together a small group to draft a recommended budget with the goal of presenting it to the board at the April meeting.

Rebecca Froom ordination:

Rebecca Froom has asked that USG co-ordain her with the Arlington Church in Boston, MA. The ordination will be held at the Arlington Church. The date has not yet been determined.

Kent explained the process of ordination, stating that congregations can choose to ordain.

Since the congregation would be sanctioning Rebecca's ordination, the board will recommend that we co-ordain Rebecca and ask the congregation vote on this.

Anti Racism report:

Tom Ott reported on the ERC meeting on January 18, 2012 attended by Tom and Leni Windle as representatives of the board.

The sense of both board members in attendance was that the ERC would like more input and support from other groups including the Board of Directors.

Mosaic Makers conference:

The Mosaic Makers is a UUA coalition of churches doing multi cultural work. This year there is an invitation-only conference in Washington. Missions and Programs Council is paying partial registration for three people with understanding that they will attend and support to the Social Justice Group with information they receive at the convention. USG has been selected because MM believes we can both fight racism and work on multi cultural church.

A motion and seconded: That that the participants whose costs or any part of those costs are covered by the church will be expected to come to the Revisioning Social Justice in order to share their knowledge.

Motion carried.

Revisioning Social Justice:

March 10<sup>th</sup>. Revitalizing our social justice program.

Rob Keithan will lead it as part of his work here. Board participation is strongly encouraged.

Several Board members have committed to coming.

DNA Group:

Linda O'Gwynn gave a report on the work of this group. The purpose of the group is to discern and understand the heart and soul of USG. Therefore the group is changing its name to Heart and Soul of USG to better describe what the mission of the group is.

The group hosted a meeting in October attended by approximately 40 participants which followed the Gathered Here format of the UUA. The Heart and Soul group will now be facilitating conversations with other groups to develop a mission statement that captures the essence of the heart and soul of our church.

The timeline for this is the end of June. The group be hosting town meetings to promote this. In addition, the group will be seeking observations and input from outside groups such as NIM and NPIN.

Church Council:

Dave Dearden is willing to continue as church counsel.

The board wisheds to express its sincere gratitude and appreciation for all of Dave's work thus far.

A motion was made regarding term limits for this position. This was tabled, however, pending discussing this question with Dave.

Election of Officers:

Motion:

The board members will elect a president for the following church year at the January meeting.

The Secretary and Vice President will be elected at the June meeting.

The motion carried

Tom Ott nominated and elected president for the 2012-13 church year..

Nominating committee:

Congregation has elected: Nancy Anderson, Dennis Brunn, and Bruce Bryant. Two more are to be elected by the board.

The board has chosen Scott Murray and Delores Hills with Jenn Leiby as an alternate.

Staffing:

DRE

Betsy Gabriel reported that although it was hoped that we could wait to fill the DRE position, the personnel committee will begin its search in September. The position will be 25 hours and will limit responsibilities to education for babies through high school. Pastoral care will not be part of the DRE responsibilities.

An interviewing committee will be established.

A motion was made and seconded to approve Betsy's proposal for the DRE search. The motion carried.

Ministerial intern:

We will have a ministerial intern from September, 2012 through May 2013.

A ministerial committee will need to be established. Intern Committee will be responsible, along with the Minister, for facilitating the intern's learning, growth and service to the organization.

Discussion regarding Policy Based Governance:

Andrea Parry reported on the meeting with the minister (Peter Fredricks) and members of the Harrisburg Unitarian Universalist Church which was held on January 10, 2012. The board is considering moving to Policy Based Governance. A meeting with the Cherry Hill Unitarian Church will be held in the near future. Individual board members are also canvassing other Unitarian churches around the country on their experiences regarding PBG.

Policy Governance would shift some responsibilities currently held by the board and by the minister. The hope would be that it would empower the minister and the congregation and free the board to focus on vision and mission.

This discussion will continue at future meetings.

Caring and Concerns:

Kent reported that there are a high number of congregants who are in need of support.

New Business:

The question was asked whether the the Missions and Program Council should report to Kent or the Board. This will be considered at the next board meeting.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Leni Windle

Board Secretary