

USG Board of Trustees Meeting, March 25, 2014

Member present: Dennis Strain, Leni Windle, Tom Ott, Bob Williford, Marina Patrice Van Gossen, Ann Schoonmaker, Craig Miller, Treva Burger

Non-Members present: Rev. Kent Matthies, Daniel Gregoire, Gloria Smith

Members Not Present: Andrea Parry

Motion: to approve the February Minutes

Motion Approved: 6-0-0 (two members were a few minutes late)

Minister's Report: Second interview for potential student minister is tomorrow and start up for Daniel Gregorie is May 16 and 17. Marina Patrice Van Gossen and Tom Ott will attend the DFD start up on behalf of the Board.

President's Report: Tom Ott met with Bill Blasdel, Scott Murray and Tom Schoonmaker to discuss uses for the gift from Mary Lee Keane and Sam Gugino. They decided that they would like to spend the money on air conditioning for the sanctuary and that thought will be shared with Mary Lee and Sam to make sure that fits with their goal for the money.

Thanks to Craig Miller for being willing to attend the Cluster meeting on behalf of USG.

Tom Ott was asked by Charles Gabriel, chair of Budget and Finance to have the Board vote to move the money needed to pay the UUA and JPD dues. This amount is in this year's budget.

Motion: Authorization to move \$22,344 from the CIF to pay UUA and JPD dues.

Motion approved: 8-0-0

In preparation for the Annual Meeting, the names of prospective Board members will need to be sent to congregation 45 days before the meeting, so that is by March 31. Leni Windle will contact the three prospective Board members to see if they can have their bios ready by then, but that is not required by the bylaws. Dennis Strain will send the bylaws change regarding the Nominating Committee to Gloria.

We need an agenda for the meeting, but since it's an Annual Meeting, that doesn't need to be sent out ahead of time. Assuming the Board approves the Governance change, it needs to be presented to the congregation. Board didn't feel that the congregation should vote on the governance change. Long discussion about whether the congregation should vote on whether the second service should continue.

Second Service presentation: Rev. Kent Matthies presented, Linda Brunn helped prepare the presentation, but was unable to attend this meeting. One person thought it might be nice to have one service a few times during the year to help people connect to people they don't usually see, they have seen this work well in another church. Others felt like that might not be necessary or useful due to smaller coffee hour and easier parking and that there were many other opportunities for people to see each other.

Leadership Development Proposal: Dennis Strain states that the Current Chair of Nominating, Debbie Ward, was comfortable with the proposal and felt longer and staggered terms would be a good.

Congregational Awards: For the Less than Five Years awards: Jan and Ken Eng. For the Congregational award: Dave Dearden and Bill Blasdel. Lifetime Achievement: June Krebs, Peter Walsh.

Budget: There may need to be a conversation about budget policy and procedure. For example if it was budgeted to pay the UUA/JPD dues, why did the Board have to vote to move the money? The reason we needed to was that we have exceeded the amount we agreed to take from the CIF. We have had many unplanned building expenses: Youth Lodge boiler, Lincoln Drive sidewalk, tree on the Youth Lodge and snow removal.

Motion: to adjourn

Motion approved: 8-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm

Respectfully submitted,

Treva Burger

**Unitarian Society Germantown
Minister's Report to Board of Directors
Rev. Kent Matthies**

March 20, 2014

Oh the glories of spring! I hope this finds you all doing well as we greet the sun a bit more every day.

Here are some important upcoming items on our docket:

We will hold a one night/ one day "**Start Up**" for **Daniel Gregoire** as our Director of Faith Development on May 16-17. Daniel, Gloria Smith, Rick Rhodes, Chair of Adult Spiritual Development, and Jessica Slivak, Chair of Religious Education for Children and Youth have started formal planning conversations along with well-respected consultant Sandra Greenfield, from the Joseph Priestley District who will conduct the meetings. Sandra will give this service free of charge because we pay our full dues to the JPD.

This gathering will create conversations to check in on how our work is going in the areas where Daniel has primary responsibility. We will clarify goals, rolls and expectations for our DFD and the leadership teams who work with him. We would like for two Board and two MPC members to participate. The schedule will be approximately: Friday 6-9 pm and Saturday, 9:30 am – 3 pm. Do we have any volunteers?

Second Service Proposal: I am working closely with Linda Brunn in creating a proposal for extending our experiment with two worship and religious education offerings on Sunday mornings going into 2014-15. We are consulting with Worship Arts, Religious Education, Ministries and Programs Council and the staff. We look forward to making a presentation to the board this coming Tuesday.

Joan JD Ordination committee: Andrea Parry

This morning Gloria Smith, Dennis Brunn and I interviewed Kin Sims, the Princeton Theological School student regarding the possibility of serving as **Student Minister** next year. On Wednesday, the 26th Tom Ott, Leni Windle, Craig Miller, and Daniel Gregoire will interview Mr. Sims. We will confer after both interviews and present a recommendation to the board as to whether or not we proceed. The Student Ministry position would last from September 2014-15 with an average of 10 hours of work per week. Right now we envision

a job that would focus on supporting social justice efforts and our high school program, while also letting Mr. Sims experience some of all the nuts and bolts of parish ministry. Currently if we want to proceed we are told that a stipend of \$1,350 (half) would be requested from us. Princeton Theological Seminary is already committed to paying \$1,350 (second-half) themselves. If we want to proceed we can apply for additional assistance.

Stewardship: I worked closely with the USG Band and the staff in preparation for Celebration Sunday. I believe we had a very successful morning of two worship services focused on the importance of being generous, including making a strong, generous financial pledge to USG.

I spearheaded an effort to identify a list of friends of USG who are not members. I drafted a letter, which will go out over the signatures of Tom Ott, Leni Windle and me. There was some unfortunate miscommunication about the specifics of childcare and programs for the night of our Annual Dinner. I worked with the staff, volunteers, Bill and Leni to find the proper care for both babies/toddlers, as well as older children. With annual dinner including child program at last minute.

Rites of Passage: I worked closely with family and friends to help plan and officiate two memorial services since the board last met: Kevin Groves March 1, Misha Lazer March 16. Both services brought beauty, power and comfort to those mourning the loss of two magnificent human beings.

I am currently working with Patricia Hamill, the Chair and only member of the Personnel Committee to make **staffing budget recommendations** to the Budget and Finance Council for consideration in the draft of next year's budget.

I also continue my work with our Governance and Ministry Task Force in preparation for our continued conversations with the Board at the April 5th special meeting and beyond.

Have a great day. See you Tuesday night.