

Minutes, USG Board of Trustees, September 18, 2012

Board members present: Leni Windle, Tom Ott, Linda O’Gwynn, Andrea Parry, Betsy Gabriel, Marina Patrice Van Gossen, Treva Burger, Dennis Strain (late)

Board Members absent: Walt Ceglowski

Non Board members present: Rev. Kent Matthies

Minutes from the August Board Meeting

Motion: to approve the August minutes as presented. **Motion Carried:** 7-0-0

1. Minister’s Report

Good work was done at the DRE start up. Process was begun to divide up all RE related responsibilities. Kent is primarily responsible for following up with Jody Wheldon, Susan Doering and Beth Lazer to make sure the responsibilities are addressed and are effectively shared. Tom offered the DRE a Board liaison, she has not responded yet, but the Board feels that the RE Committee needs to feel supported. Andrea Parry has agreed to act as RE Committee liaison as an addition to MPC liaison. Much of Rev. Kent Matthies’s time has been taken up with pastoral crisis. There is a need for more people providing pastoral care and the Staffing for the Future is looking at this.

2. Financials

In the Dropbox for Board member review. If members have any questions they should send them to Marina Patrice and she will take them to Budget and Finance Committee next week. Lee Meinicke has told Tom she will need to be replaced as treasurer. Tom Ott has asked people to think of possible replacements. She will be very hard to replace, she has done an excellent job.

3. Annual Meeting, Part 2

Tom Ott has prepared the agenda. It will be primarily about financials and the importance of addressing the long term needs of the building.

4. Identity Statement prepared by the Heart and Soul Committee

The statement will be presented to the congregation as having been approved by the Board after incorporating much feedback. It will be presented in multiple ways: in a dedicated email, in newsletters, in worship services, etc. The plan is for the congregation to work with the statement for a year. It will be used by the

Board and other leadership groups as one of the driving factors in their work with: policy, procedure, ministries and programs and budget and its use will be evaluated in a year.

Motion: The Board agrees to accept the USG Identity Statement dated 9-18-12, to incorporate it into our work during this church year and review it in one year

Motion carried : 8-0-0

5. Update on Stewardship Committee Leni Windle feels that people have a lack of trust and don't understand why we talk about stewardship when what we mean is fundraising. She will preach in October so that people have plenty of time to think about the meaning of stewardship. She would like the Board to commit to fair share giving. She wants to make clear that stewardship is about building community and trust: taking care of the building, of ourselves and each other, having a presence in the world, taking ownership. Time and talent are also very important. There was a discussion about ways to engage people who are not involved.

6. Rev. Kent Matthies's Goals Several typographical changes were made. These goals are areas of change and growth for USG and Rev. Kent Matthies's responsibilities for them, but this document does not include all the things that Kent does and it would be good to have a document that includes everything. He will have that for the next meeting.

7. October Board meeting will be a mini Board retreat about our goals for the year.

Motion: to adjourn. **Motion carried:** 8-0-0

Respectfully submitted,
Treva Burger
Board Secretary

September, 2012 Minister's Report

Jody Whelden start-up

My top priority for the month of September has been continuing to help orient and support Jody Whelden as she begins as our Director of Religious Education. Jody gave a very good story for all ages at the opening Water Ceremony. The RE program for the fall seems to be launching with good enthusiasm from the families, children and teachers.

This last weekend a very fine consultant, Rev. Sandra Greenfield, from the Joseph Priestley District ran a "DRE Start Up Weekend". I worked hard with Jody and the RE committee in preparations for the event. I can't overstate how superb a RE committee we have with Susan Doering as Chair. My involvement in the start-up weekend included personal invitations, preparatory meetings and even serving on the food/hospitality committee. We continued to gain clarity around roles and expectations of different key positions and leaders in the RE system. We also have been examining how the Minister, staff, Ministries and Programs Council can support and share leadership with the DRE and the RE committee where appropriate and helpful.

After the last three years of transitions and stress in the position of DRE all parties involved agreed that we have to keep working on these issues. It has been a long time since USG has had a DRE 25-hour per week position, which focuses solely on programs for children and youth. Cliché as it is our challenges and opportunities are often one in the same.

Joan Javier Duval start-up

Joan has begun well with worship leadership, giving direct pastoral care, connecting with our social justice initiatives and staff work flow. Joan's first sermon with USG will be this coming Sunday (9/23). Joan and I will finish the learning/serving agreement before the end of September and I will share it with the board at that time. You may remember that I have shared this is the UUA Intern Minister equivalent of a job description. It clarifies Joan's duties but also highlights our responsibilities as a teaching congregation. It has been a long time (perhaps many decades) since USG had a full time parish Intern Minister. I encourage all of us to communicate our excitement and pride over this year's relationship between Joan and USG.

Pastoral Care

Unfortunately, many people in our congregation continue to go through struggles and some intense crisis. I have been working intensively on a number of these situations, giving direct pastoral care. Working in these ways with our families and people is a tremendous honor and inspiration in my life. It is also time consuming. I am working with Sarah West to continually attempt to draw more of our fine, talented and dedicated church members into sharing these efforts. At times, however, it simply seems the appropriate and right thing for me the Minister to give the direct care. The addition of Joan Javier Duval also helps tremendously. Joan has begun with her minimum of once per week giving direct pastoral care. I believe she will be quite effective.

Rev. Kent Matthies