

USG Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes, November 27, 2012

Members Present: Betsy Gabriel, Walt Ceglowski, Treva Burger, Dennis Strain, Andrea Parry, Linda O’Gwynn, Marina Patrice Van Gossen, Leni Windle

Non Members Present: Joan Javier-Duval, Rev. Kent Matthies

Treasurer needs to be replaced immediately.

Motion: To appoint Charles Gabriel as Interim Treasurer.

Motion Approved: 8-0-0

Budget and Finance

Budget and Finance proposes that the Edna Jones bequest be invested immediately while the Board takes time to make a long term plan for this roughly \$300,000. Tom Ott and Betsy Gabriel will put together ideas for how this money could be used in preparation for discussion at the December meeting.

Minutes from the September and October Meetings

Motion: To approve the amended minutes for September and October.

Motion Approved: 8-0-0

Minister’s Report: We will have multicultural/anti-oppression events each month starting in January. Paula Cole Jones will lead a leadership retreat here in February in addition to MLK, Jr Day and two additional events in March and April. Concern was expressed that this may be too many things in too short a period of time. Rev. Kent Matthies recommends that the MPC develop a strategy for how to decide what and how much we do.

Executive Committee convened. Three motions were made and voted on.

Question was asked where we were with the Revisoning Social Justice team. Joan Javier-Duval said that this is an ongoing discussion that will be revisited as part of the town hall in March.

President’s Report Three issues were brought to Board members on a Sunday. Betsy talked with Gloria about accessibility issues and there is a group that had worked on this last year with Admin Council and Gloria has restarted working with this group. Also, someone should be in charge of making sure the church’s purchases are “green”. Leni Windle will talk with a Green Sanctuary member about whether they might be willing to consider taking on the oversight of this. Also there was a concern that there was only one Board member and one MPC member at the Divali celebration and that that was not sufficient leadership representation. This is will be discussed further at the December meeting and the member who raised the issue will be told that this is the plan. Betsy signed the Family Agreement that allowed the Edna Jones bequest that had already gone through probate to move forward without having to send the accounting back through probate.

Old Business

Board and MPC Goals Development Rev. Kent Matthies would like a sub group of the Board and MPC consisting of himself, Tom Ott and Beth Lazer to review both group's goals and see where coordination is possible. Marina Patrice Van Gossen offered to collaborate on pieces that may overlap with the governance structure conversation.

Safe Congregation Policy Work Has been put on hold during Tom's illness and will be resumed at a December 5 meeting.

Stewardship Committee Report Leni Windle reports that there was a productive meeting last night and that three proposals were made that they are requesting Board approval for.

Proposals: That Stewardship would like to have an expense budget developed prior to the all church dinner, Saturday March 23. That they would like to set a Stewardship pledge goal of \$340,000 (10% increase over this year's pledge income) and make that public. And that they would like to know how the Board feels and how the staff feels about publishing specific information such as salaries. The Board does not need to approve these proposals.

Sullivan Assistance Fund: Norman Matlock is currently the only member. Bruce Bryant needs to be replaced and we need a third person. Rev. Kent Matthies and Betsy Gabriel recommend Jim Salom and Sandy Campbell, they request additional names from the Board.

Motion: That Jim Salom and Sandy Campbell are asked to be on this committee and if they refuse, additional names be recommended at the December meeting.

Motion carried: 8-0-0

Possibility of Intern Minister for 2013-14 Betsy Gabriel is concerned that we have a deficit budget and we need to be sure we have the money before we advertise and we need to make the decision in December. The Board needs to decide if we are going to continue at our current level of staffing and if we are not, what are we going to do without because people are overworking now. Idea raised that the fund might be developed from the bequest, the income alone might match the possible congregational gift we had been offered. Rev. Kent agreed to follow up with the family that was considering a grant to fund this program.

We received a letter requesting that USG nominate Rev. Peter Morales for a second term as UUA President. He is running unopposed and our nomination does not imply congregational endorsement of him.

Motion: That we nominate Rev. Peter Morales to run for a second term as UUA President.

Motion carried: 8-0-0

Additional items from the agenda will be addressed in December, the Executive session ran very long.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Treva Burger

November, 2012 Minister's Report

I start this report with a note of care and gratitude for Tom Ott's recovery. I visited Tom today (11/in his home and his increasing strength and wonderful spirit lifted my heart. Thanks so very much to Betsy Gabriel for the superb job she has done in helping steer the ship in Tom's absence. Betsy has provided wise guidance, direct support and clear leadership during this last month of Tom's illness.

Multi-Cultural Ministry celebrations

We are fully into our UU holiday year with diverse and enriching celebrations. We have recently celebrated Day of the Dead, Sowain, Diwali and Thanksgiving bread communion. Please mark your calendars and invite friends and neighbors to the following events. These programs embody some of the most unique activities we do with excellence.

December 16th, Mark Daugherty & Choir Holiday service

December 23rd, Kwanza

December 24th, Christmas Eve

January 6th, New Orleans Jazz Funeral

January 20th, Martin Luther King Sunday worship

January 21st, Martin Luther King Day of Service

Second Worship Service Exploration Task Force

With Linda Brunn as Chair, our group is working hard in assessing the needs and possibilities for establishing a second worship service. We had productive and helpful meetings. First we met with Jody Whelden and RE committee, then with Mark Daugherty and the choir to share about our research and thinking. Next we will meet with the Worship Arts team. We are on track to develop a proposal to the Ministries and Programs Council by March. If accepted this proposal would come to the board soon thereafter.

Gloria Smith, Church Administrator Start-up

Betsy Gabriel, Gloria Smith and I have more fully sketched an outline for a "Start Up" session for Gloria's work as full-time Church Administrator. This will be led by Rev. Dr. Richard Speck the District Executive of the Joseph Priestley District on Saturday, December 8th from 9-noon. The primary purpose is to clarify and support Gloria's work and her collaborative efforts with staff and lay leaders. We will review her job description and the expectations we have of one another going forward. Within areas including, but not limited to communications, property, personnel, management we would clarify primary, shared, and supported responsibilities.

Safe Congregations Task Force

The working group had a short delay in our work due to Tom's illness. We will meet again in December without Tom and intend to finalize a recommended set of policies for the board's consideration by January.

Rev. Kent Matthies