

TVUUC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 19, 2014

Members Present:

Chloie Airoidi-Watters
Kate Benson
Chris Buice
Ada Falls
Heather Finney

Lamar Gibson
Mary Jo Holden
John Mashburn
Lance McCold
Kenneth Moffett

Alan Moore
Linda Randolph
Dick Trowbridge

Members Absent:

Maureen McBride
Tom O'Connor

1. Opening Words

- Alan Moore called the meeting to order at 1 pm.
- Dick Trowbridge offered opening words by Dr. Martin Luther King.

2. Check-in

- Members were asked "If you had one thing you could change about TVUUC for 2014, what would it be?" Comments ranged from the practical to the philosophical.

3. Approval of Minutes from November Meeting

- A motion was made, seconded and carried to delete the 4th bullet point from item 7 of the 2nd draft Minutes for November.
- With this one change, Minutes for the Board meeting of November 17, 2013 were approved as submitted by the secretary.

4. Additions-changes to Agenda

- There were no additions.

5. Consent agenda

- No action was taken.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

6. Finance report and Budget report and board discussion

- Heather Finney distributed a handout for finances July 2013 through December '31, 2013. She noted that it indicates an influx of income from year's end pledges and the auction, but that we should expect a drop during the beginning of this year. She noted that share-the-plate is expected to

- improve, that the auction income is close to its goal, and that the figures indicate some special building and grounds expenses.
- She distributed a 2014 Budget Worksheet, describing this as the “dream budget” but with deductions from previous line items for building and grounds and for sextons. The result, which continues with a pledge goal of \$550,000, shows revenues slightly in excess of expenses.

7. Monitoring Report: Membership

- Heather reviewed the report prepared by her and Volunteer and Membership Coordinator Sandy Tracy, which had been distributed in advance of the meeting.
- Also distributed was the UUA “Active Congregation History Report” for TVUUC reflecting membership and financial information from 1961 to the present.
- Heather noted that Sandy has done a fine job in dealing with new members in a “pastoral” manner that makes them feel more comfortable.
- Chris noted this is important and that initial work with new members should take care to avoid communicating financial or volunteer help needs or anxiety generally; that “it’s not about us; about them.”
- Lance commented that one reason we need this position is that members are not doing a good enough job of welcoming newcomers.
- Linda noted that Sandy’s position is important for its organizational aspect, as a coordinator.
- Alan suggested a goal for this year of keeping track of new member retention. Heather noted this can be done.

8. Bylaws review

- Alan noted that he, Mary Jo and Maureen have been conducting a review and will make a presentation at the next meeting,

9. Goals and Objectives for 2014-15

- There was a discussion of Linda’s 1-14-14 edition of draft goals and objectives 2014-15, that was distributed in advance.
- Linda noted that objective I.3.b will read “track new member retention,” and that Sandy’s report discussed above concerning “happy and quality members” (as defined therein) is pertinent here.
- She noted a need for better information on how many volunteers are needed in various areas, and whether their needs are being met.
- She noted that Goal II.4 (re raising consciousness of members and confidence of all who enter that they will be received with acceptance and interest), while a little vague, is pertinent and needs some thought on how to achieve.
- Mary Jo noted that goal II.3 (re improving services and Sunday morning experience) is hard to grapple with given the varied opinions involved.
- Alan stated he will be forming a task force to work on goal IV.1 (re priority space needs).

- Linda noted that, re goal IV.6 (re clarifying how members join committees), we don't know about all the committees. Mary Jo said the volunteer fair does some of this. Alan felt the recent volunteer fair wasn't handled in an inviting way; evidently there were too many activities competing for attention and help on that occasion.
- Chris allowed as how at least it's good there's a lot going on. He referenced a pamphlet rack booklet "Paths to Spiritual Growth" as a possible model for an overview of church committee opportunities.
- It was noted that our various means of communication—website; bulletin boards; pamphlet racks; etc.— need to be kept in order and up to date.
- Linda will send out a revised version of this document.

10. Breast Feeding Policy

- Alan explained this item arose from a member request.
- Upon discussion, a motion was made, seconded and carried that the Board put a notice in the newsletter indicating our support of the state law requiring that breast feeding be allowed in the church.
- Alan will sign on the state website indicating our support.

11. Discussion re: right relations and congregational covenant

- Heather stated that the Administrative Assistant receives the brunt of rude and demanding comments and requests at the front desk, one example that indicates that we aren't adhering to our covenant.
- With respect to goal II.2, it was noted that a Right Relations Committee is both proactive and receives concerns as a mediating presence.
- Responding to a question as to any training for the administrative assistant, Chris noted that there are programs underway for all the staff.
- Lamar pointed out that the cramped and cluttered situation of the front desk where visitors tower over the receptionist serves to exacerbate such poor behaviors.
- Chris noted that all those providing such "front line service," including kitchen helpers, etc., need to be paid appropriate respect.
- It was noted that the covenant should be posted. Alan will present an introductory statement at the next meeting to accompany the posting of the covenant in the newsletter.

12. Pre super bowl party- Feb 1, 6 pm

- A notice for the listserv was suggested to clarify that this event was a flat rate auction item.
- Board members signed up for what they will bring or do.
- Entertainment of some kind is wanted.

13. BMOD signup

- A list for signing up was circulated.

14. Announcements- special dates

- A number of events were noted, including the major event of the Raleigh moral march; it was noted that a corresponding event may be initiated in Tennessee.

15. Likes and what could we improve on

- No substantive comments.

16. Opening and closing words for next meeting

- Mary Jo volunteered.

17. Closing words

- Dick offered closing words.
- The meeting was adjourned at 3 pm.
- Next meeting: February 16, 2014

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth M. Moffett, Secretary
January 20, 2013