

TVUUC Board Meeting

4/17/2016

Present:

Kathy Bohstedt, Elnora Williams, Lynne Mullins, John McNair, Ann Barber, Marco Casteneda, Lance McCold, Joe Viglione, Laurie Knox, Mary Jo Holden, Chris Buice (ex officio), Claudia Wise (ex officio)

Absent: John Mashburn, Barbara Taylor

Guests: Judy Gibson, Robyn Brookshire, Toni Powell, George Shields

Approval of March Minutes:

Minutes were approved as presented.

Boy Scout Venturing Proposal

Guest George Shields presented a proposal for TVUUC to be a sponsor organization for a new co-educational Boy Scouts of America “Venturing” program for youth who are either 13 years of age or past 8th grade through the age of 20 and who are interested in scouting activities with a focus on outdoor activities and skills and leadership training. The obligations of the sponsoring organization include providing meeting space, paying a \$40 annual fee that covers liability insurance and background checks for volunteer leaders, and participation in the area Boy Scout governing body. Co-ed leaders are a requirement and membership would be open to LGBT youth. Policy changes within the national scouting organization and a participation agreement with the UUA have opened the door to our consideration of this activity. The proposal has been vetted by Program Council. They would include the program under the Youth Religious Education Committee where policies and safety procedures for working with youth are already in place. George indicated a possible open house in the fall of 2016, assuming the local Boy Scout council approves our application. Lance indicated that he planned to be involved with the program. Marco C. moved and John McNair seconded a motion for TVUUC to become a sponsoring organization and establish a Venturing Crew (troop) within this congregation. Motion passed.

Monitoring Report: Program Council

Robyn Brookshire went over the very thorough and thoughtful report on the goals, objectives, and activities of this year’s Program Council. There were several main themes: need for more attention to recruiting and nurturing volunteers, broader and more responsive communications with the congregation, the need for block grant funds in the next budget cycle. Robyn Brookshire (who has been co-chairing with Judy Gibson this year) becomes chair on July 1, and Toni Powell will become the chair elect.

Program Council has raised the question of whether Share the Plate is really a “program” and, now that it has been through a three year trial run, where it should actually be placed in our governance structure. Kathy indicated that an evaluation of Share the Plate is on May’s agenda. In the meantime, Terry Uselton is chairing a committee to solicit nominations for the next set of organizations to be chosen. The current plan is to get nominations in time for presentation at the annual meeting, to be followed by a several week period for voting. Robyn added that there is a need for some additional policy development as this activity continues.

Additional Reports:

Rummage Sale: Claudia reported that the sale has brought in over \$12,000 with some additional payments still to come. There will be some expenses to be paid out of that total, but this was a very successful event, and we are extremely grateful to Valeri Horner and her entire family for their commitment to this annual project. We also discussed the need to recruit more volunteers next year to help with set up the Sunday before and clean up post-sale on Saturday afternoon and Sunday.

Stewardship: Claudia also reported that the canvass total currently stands at \$501,000. There are still 26 current pledging units who have not indicated a pledge for the coming year. Jodie Hamilton is still working on contacting everyone in this group, which could add some additional funds. Kathy will secure Volunteer Award plaques for Jodie and Jen Hamilton and Ken Kitchen for presentation at an upcoming church service.

Treasurer’s Report: Joe’s report showed a continuation of shortfalls in anticipated pledge income and non-pledge donations. There was also an extra pay period in March. At this point, all our contingency funds have been used, and our operating reserve is down to 1.8 months. The numbers were followed by a general discussion of our canvass philosophy and whether changes in its overall structure are needed. Kathy has volunteered to try to find a financial consultant from our denomination to help us sort through our next steps. Funding for this would come from an anonymous contribution.

DRE Search: Chris reported that there were a total of eight applicants for the position, from both within and outside the congregation. The search committee is doing video interviews with two of the candidates this week. Chris indicated that he is very pleased with the caliber of our applicant pool.

Membership/Communications Coordinator: Claudia reported ongoing discussions with an internal candidate.

Auction: Kathy announced that Linda Randolph has agreed to chair the 2016 auction.

Leadership Workshop: The planned May leadership training workshop has been cancelled but will be rethought, renamed, and rescheduled for this fall.

Denominational Affairs Priorities: (see attachment) After sorting through the multiple structural layers of governance and programming in our denomination, we decided to leave the current committee structure intact for now but to try to do a little more communication with the congregation about how all these pieces fit together. In addition to previous newsletter articles, about our denominational activities, Lance will contribute an article on the activities of our East Tennessee Cluster of six congregations and Kathy will contribute an article about the role and activities of the Southeast District. The annual June General Assembly of the UUA will be in Columbus, Ohio, so we expect to have a full slate of representatives from our congregation. Delegates will be encouraged to report to the congregation on the Actions of Immediate Witness and study questions from this year's meeting.

Sponsorship of Isabel Call: A motion to recommend sponsorship of Isabell as a candidate for UU ministry was made by Lynne, seconded by John McNair and passed unanimously. (letter of request what been received by the Board)

For our calendars:

May 8

The Board will meet Sunday, May 8, from 12:45 to 1:45 to approve the budget and finalize the agenda for our annual meeting. Kathy will do opening and closing words.

May 15

The next regular board meeting will be held at 12:45 as previously scheduled. The agenda will include the monitoring report for Lifespan Religious Education (Kim and Mary Jo) and an evaluation of Share the Plate. Joe will do opening and closing words.

May 22

Congregational annual meeting immediately following the morning service

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Jo Holden (for the secretary)