

Date: Sunday, January 18, 2015

Members Present:

Alan Moore
Chris Buice
Cindy Moffett
Grier Novinger
John Mashburn
Kate Benson
Lance McCold
Laurie Knox

Linda Randolph
Marco Castaneda
Mary Jo Holden
Maureen McBride

Members Absent:

Jon Coffee
Kathy Bohstedt

1. Opening

Linda called the meeting to order at 12:50 PM. Mary Jo read the opening words. Some items were addressed out of this order.

2. Minutes

Minutes for the December and Jan. 11 board meeting were approved.

3. Additions to agenda

Grier, who is coordinating food for the Feb. 28 **Ruth Martin Games board-sponsored auction event**, said she would email all board members with food assignments for the event. It will be at 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall. Mary Jo will make potato cheese soup, Ruth's recipe. Ruth's daughter, Barbara Martin, will send a cheesecake. Jeanette Kennedy will transport Ruth to and from the party and stay with her during the event. (If Ruth is not well enough to attend, we will skype her in for an appearance.)

Eighteen to twenty people have signed up for the event. Linda (on announce2serve) and Cindy (on Facebook) will advertise space for more attendees.

Chris introduced our **new director of administration, Claudia Pressley-Wise**. She reports to work on Feb. 1.

4. Vision committee (Lance, Grier, Alan, Laurie)

"We've been on a listening mission," Laurie said. She presented a synthesis of visioning input from the congregation and Wordles for both the raw data and the synthesized input. Next they will give this information back to the congregation through various meetings and ask what we've missed. Then they will write vision statements. Grier asked the board to read the matrixed synthesis and give the committee any comments. Lance suggested adding to the synthesis any missing concepts that are part of an earlier draft vision statement.

5. Statement of Conscience and Congregational Study Action/Issues

Linda explained UUA Statements of Conscience (SOC), which begin as four-year studies, Congregational Study Action/Issues (CSAI). Delegates at the 2012 General Assembly in Phoenix, AZ, selected "Reproductive Justice: Expanding Our Social Justice Calling" to be the 2012-2016 Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) of Congregations. The Congregational Study/Action Issue is an invitation for congregations and districts to take a topic of concern and engage it, reflect on it, learn about it, respond to it, comment on it take action—each in their own way.

This CSAI has culminated in a Reproductive Justice Proposal, and a social justice group at TVUUC that worked for the "Vote No on Amendment One" campaign has voted "yes" to this CSAI proposal being presented at GA 2015 for a vote on whether to make it a Statement of Conscience. If adopted, then during the following year, 2015-16, congregations and UUA staff will begin work to implement the SOC and will report their results at the 2016 GA. Adopted Statements of Conscience serve to focus the efforts of congregations and other UU groups on the topic of the SOC. When UUA votes to adopt this CSAI proposal, UUA will make a public declaration in support of reproductive justice, and UUA congregations will be given guidance on how to support reproductive justice as social justice/action work.

Delegates vote on CSAIs every two years, selecting one topic to focus on. The current CSAI is Escalating Inequality, with staff and congregations beginning in this year a four-year process of study, action, and reflection.

Related to these topics, there was discussion about how to communicate to the congregations on the issues and options for action. A list provided on the SOC and CSAI forms suggests the Denominational Affairs Committee, open forums, and social justice/action committees to possibly assume responsibility for communication with the congregation. Chris commented that a Denominational Affairs Committee would be ideal. Our own Dialogues forum was suggested as well, and Linda agreed to a suggestion that the Dialogues group be invited to attend a Board meeting to discuss how the Dialogue sessions might fit in more satisfactorily with the revised times for Sunday services implemented last fall.

6. Financial report

There was no monthly budget report (no director of administration), but because Claudia Pressley-Wise reports to work Feb. 1, Maureen promised a financial report in February. A regularly scheduled audit is planned for July or so, and Maureen is contacting accountants experienced in auditing nonprofits.

7. Membership report

Chris will submit this report in February; this week he was unable to access some of the data, again because there's currently no director of administration. In an oral overview, he said that membership coordinator Monique Meadows is moving new membership training from three sessions to two sessions plus a social event that mixes new members and established members; they revised and streamlined the new membership packet; they've revised the new member service; and they plan to offer four new member classes next year. Partly through redefining "members" and through attrition, TVUUC membership is now about 400, about the same that it was back when Chris was hired.

Some board members at a previous meeting had expressed interest in attending the second membership meetings to help welcome and to get acquainted with new members; the next one is next Sunday, January 25, from 12:30 to 2 PM. If you are interested in attending, rsvp to Monique Meadows.

8. Handling confidential information

Maureen presented a draft for discussion of a broad policy for handling confidential information. The board agreed that having an overall policy makes sense as well as incorporating the details in more specific policies. The board is to think about her draft and comment on Basecamp, and at the February 15 board meeting decisions will be made about which aspects of confidentiality policy should be reviewed and expanded on by which areas of the church.

9. Recruiting and hiring paid staff policy and procedure

After lengthy, detailed discussion of a draft policy on Recruiting and Hiring Paid Staff, **the board voted to approve sections A-D as policy** and to return the document to the Personal Committee to review recommendations and suggestions by the board for the procedures section. Proposed policy attached.

10. Vows renewal on Feb. 14

The board approved Jon Coffee's proposal for a **Feb. 14 renewal of vows** fundraiser at TVUUC where those couples wishing to renew their vows will pay Jon a minister fee for him to preside, as approved by the State of Tennessee. (Interns from Meadville Lombard, Jon's school, are unpaid, and thus the desire for a fundraiser to provide him some compensation for all the work he is doing for the church.)

11. Girl Scout cookies

The board approved a one-Sunday policy for all Girl Scout troops to sell cookies, now and in the future. Proposal attached, and the responsibility for coordinating each annual event in the future will reside with the RE department, who initiated this proposal.

12. Status of expansion options report

Gene Burr, part of the committee that gathered congregational input three years ago for building expansion, inquired at a Program Council meeting about the status of their report. Chris explained that first the church needed to get its financial house in order, and by fiscal year 2015-16 that should be the case. The report will be rolled out along with a possible mortgage buster campaign etc. next fiscal year. Chris emphasized getting input from newer members by talking about what's next.

13. Celebration Sunday

One service will take place at 11 AM on Feb. 22. There will be a celebratory brunch at 9:30 AM.

14. Action items

Next month: reports on denominational affairs, public ministry and pastoral care, and membership. Also congregational sponsorship as candidates for ministry: Angelina Carpenter and Taryn Strauss. Also policy for congregational sponsorship for candidates to the ministry. Also clarification of policy/procedures for announce2serve.

15. Closing words

Kate offered the closing words for Mary Jo and the meeting adjourned about 3:20 PM.

Next meeting: Sunday, Feb. 15, 12:45 PM. Kate will provide the opening and closing words.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Moffett, Secretary
Sunday, January 18, 2015

