

TVUUC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: Sunday, February 15, 2015

Members Present:

Alan Moore
Chris Buice
Cindy Moffett
Claudia Pressley-Wise
Grier Novinger
John Mashburn
Kate Benson
Kathy Bohstedt
Lance McCold

Laurie Knox
Linda Randolph
Marco Castaneda
Mary Jo Holden
Maureen McBride

Guests:

Barbara Taylor
Jenny Arthur
Tyra Barrett

1. Opening

Linda called the meeting to order at 12:45 PM. Kate read the opening words. Some items were addressed out of this order.

2. Minutes

Minutes were not posted in the meeting folder and so most members had not read them. People are asked to approve the minutes for Jan. 11 and Jan. 18 via email. Both are now in the Feb. 15 project folder on Basecamp.

3. Additions to agenda

John discussed acquiring a defibrillator, a goal of the safety team. Federal standards will be changing soon and thus the product, so he advises waiting a year or two before buying one. Acquiring video cameras was also discussed by the safety team, but the video resolution is not yet adequate so again he suggests waiting until the product improves.

4. Endowment fund (Tyra Barrett)

Tyra presented a list of requested changes to the charter. A marked up copy of the charter wasn't available in time to be read by the board members, so either Tyra or two other endowment committee members will return to the March board meeting with their proposal.

At an earlier board meeting and in a follow up email, Linda had asked that the Endowment Fund Committee report include reporting on activities to promote the endowment fund to increase endowments as well as any increases and disbursements from the fund. Although there was no report on promotional activities, Tyra did say that there have been neither donations to nor disbursements from the Endowment Fund since their previous report.

Tyra suggested bringing financial advisor David Toper, Society for Financial Awareness, to the church to give a seminar. His topics include social security, trusts, wills etc. The Society for Financial Awareness is a nonprofit, so Toper is paid by the society.

The endowment currently has about \$400,000.

5. Vision statement report

A draft statement was submitted: **Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church will be a spirited, compassionate community committed to living with profound respect and caring for each other, our community, and our world; TVUUC will be a center for social justice in East Tennessee, a welcoming place where a diverse cross section of the wider community will come together to share love, spiritual nourishment, and mutual support.**

Some felt it could be further refined but all agreed it was a great lead to the ends statements, and that most of the ends work has already been done through the matrix used to build the vision statement. The board will meet with facilitator Elandria Williams in March to create the ends statements. The vision task force may meet again to further refine the vision. It is understood that as we formally construct Ends, some changes might be made to the draft Vision Statement.

6. Board-sponsored Ruth Martin Game Night

Grier reported that the food and drinks are assigned. The party is 6 - 8:30 pm on Feb. 28. Board members are to arrive at 5:00 to set up the fellowship hall. John Bohstedt will act as emcee for the games.

7. Financial report

Report attached. December was a good month for pledges, as usual. In January expenses exceed income, also as usual. Maureen cautioned that we need to be sure pledges come in regularly and that they don't get lost in the share-the-plate talk. Maureen will repost the proposed budget, last seen in December.

The Program Council issued a call for action for larger print on the orders of service and newsletters. It also voted to fund the music program as a very high priority.

All agreed that the music director needs an accompanist, and we'll be studying the budget for how to make that possible.

Ann Barber sent a letter strongly stating the need for funding for Will Dunklin, organist, as an accompanist and saying that she feels very uncomfortable filling in for him for free.

Barbara Taylor submitted an account of how the music director's time is spent for about 15 hours/week.

8. Pastoral Care report

Chris recapped the informal report he gave last month. Report attached.

Monique has brought a softer touch to the new member process as far as education about the requirement for members to pledge; the Feb. new members will be the largest group we've had in quite a while. Laurie pointed out that the job description far exceeds the number of hours Monique works, and Chris said that's left over from when we had more hours in the position. He will get the job description updated. The new members will be recognized on Feb. 22, the same day as Celebration Sunday, so that will be an opportunity to meet them. Some Board members requested that each new member have some sort of New Member name tag, so that we can make a point of talking with them.

9. Inclusion report

Jenny and the spiritual care team held a Listening Tour and from all the responses gathered, she constructed a long list of barriers some people feel to being part of the church. The report begins with a list of the types of needs expressed:

- Physical barriers
- Transportation barriers
- Hearing difficulties
- Vision difficulties
- Technological barriers
- Chemical sensitivities
- Dietary restrictions
- Financial barriers
- Social barriers (includes cognitive issues such as dementia, Asperger's, developmental differences, etc.)
- Language barriers

(Report attached.) Some of the easier-to-implement needs are being addressed now. Jenny said that we need a standing committee or at least a point person that people can contact with problems of this sort. A draft was presented, written by Elnora Williams, which proposed the formation of a task force to begin with identifying what other churches to and ultimately proposing the first steps in beginning to provide a transportation ministry. Jenny strongly recommended putting some money into it for paying drivers and meeting any costs for church liability insurance. A transportation task force is being formed with members Elnora and Erven Williams, Allan Moore, and Jenny as the staff person. The task force will need one to two additional members—one to replace Alan when he moves.

In the fall, Jenny will update the Board on how the suggestions from the inclusion report are going.

The Alliance is open to replacing the church sanctuary hearing aids.

10. Pastoral care report

Report attached.

11. Public Ministry/Denominational Affairs

Report attached. We've had good attendance at general assemblies and very good attendance at East Tennessee Cluster activities such as building a compassionate community.

The Denomination Committee has been inactive for a number of years, but Elnora Williams has proposed a plan that outlines how the Committee should function: A committee of at least three members will meet at the beginning of each year with the President, President-elect, Program Council Leadership, and Senior Minister to identify activities

coming up for the year including GA, regional and ET Cluster conferences, meeting, and activities and planning communication of these events. The President and Pres-Elect are to set a meeting this Feb to plan in this manner for the remainder of the year. Board members suggested that members of the Committee identify what roles are needed and who should fill them, e.g. conferences, GA Statements of Concern and GA study topics. Committee members identified thus far are Erven Williams, Elnora Williams, and Gordon Gibson. **The board voted to create a Denominational Affairs committee, which will change their charter to include the new responsibilities as outlined in the proposal along with goals and roles needed.**

12. Church sponsorship for Taryn Strauss

The board voted to agree to congregational sponsorship for Taryn Strauss Hall, who grew up at TVUUC, in her pursuit of UU ministry. No cost is involved and ministry students are required to have a congregation that knows them to sign off as a congregational sponsor. (Letter requesting sponsorship attached.)

13. Congregational meeting

The congregational meeting will be held on May 17. We are in favor of food afterward, but someone else will hammer that out. Maybe sandwiches and an ice cream social. The board meeting in May will be on May 3.

14. Action items

Tina McMillan has resigned as rising program council chair, but Linda has a couple of leads on replacements.

Gift cards will be mentioned in the CLOD script.

In response to a question in the red book about when to seat people during the service, Bill Cherry is working that information into the usher manual.

Linda invited the Dialogue Team to the March board meeting, but two of them cannot attend. It has been suggested that 1) they try holding dialogues at 11:00 AM, and 2) that we may continue having only one service after this summer, which will make the timing problem go away.

15. Closing words

Kate offered the closing words and the meeting adjourned about 3:30 PM.

Next meeting: Sunday, Mar. 15, 12:45 PM. Beware the Ides of March. Cindy will provide the opening and closing words.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Moffett, Secretary
February 15, 2015