

**TVUUC Board of Directors Meeting  
October 18, 2015**

Present for the meeting were:

Kathy Bohstedt  
Mary Jo Holden  
Lynne Mullins  
Barbara Taylor  
Joe Vigiolone  
John Mashburn  
Marco Casteneda  
Elnora Williams  
Laurie Knox  
Chris Buice (ex-officio)

Absent:

Lance McCold  
Ann Barber  
Linda Randolph

Guest Attendee:

April Burt

Minutes from the last meeting were read and approved.

**Refugee Task Force (April Burt):**

This idea began the last Sunday in August. After a church service a question was asked about what TVUUC was doing about the Refugees from Syria. This church friend asking the question, Anna Waldman, was approached by April and Carolyn Franks. April has experience in the Laotian Boat People's crisis at a former church in Greene County. They approached Bridges to inquire about processes and possibilities. Bob Grimac has consulted with their committee, but has declined to be a member.

The Task Force/Committee would like to know how much support our church members might have for such an undertaking as sponsoring a refugee family. Thus, they are planning a November 15th Forum, hoping that they are not the only ones willing to support such an undertaking. One or two members of Bridges will be present at that forum.

April's daughter in Canada is a member of a small church also undergoing this discussion. She showed us a form regarding people's intentions as to commitment. She went on to say that perhaps the other UU churches could work with us in such an undertaking. Bridges (Bridge Refugee Services, Inc.) informed them that there are refugee families coming into Knoxville every week. Many are not from Syria, as Syrians are not yet coming into UA as they are to Canada (because they were invited by Canada). The most typical family is a mother with 3 children.

Joe stated that Global Seeds is another organization that works with refugees. Discussion ensued about the hows and the whens and the whos. Chris noted that there is usually a lead church that invite others to assist, adding how and why this is important. Discussion ensued as to whether to invite those from the other churches to the Forum. It was thought best to assess commitment here first.

**Auction Update (Kathy & Linda):**

The person who agreed to be the Chair of the Auction has stepped back from that and Linda Randolph agreed to reprise her role as Chair for this year.

Kathy has been working on learning about how not to be in this fix every autumn. She noted that there is only one reference to the Auction in the governance documents, despite being the major fund-raiser of the church year.

She proposes that The Nominating Committee be tasked with finding a person willing to run as Chair-Elect for the Auction. Such a change would require a congregational vote in May. The first time the Nominating Committee does this there would be need to nominate both Chair and Chair Elect. As noted above, the congregation would vote to approve the nominated individual(s) during our annual meetings in May.

The motion was made, seconded, discussed and approved.

**Report from Exec Team on Publicity, Communications and Marketing (sent separately):**

Chris submitted a report but went on to state what he would like to add to the report. One function of this group is to publicize events. For this function we have relied on Gordon Gibson, who tries to keep accurate and timely lists of community publicity opportunities. Another is to respond to things occurring in the community that we are asked to respond to. Chris talked about talking up the next General Assembly as it is within driving distance (in Columbus, OH). Google estimate is 5 h 9 min (357.1 mi) via I-75 N and I-71 N. Chris also noted the changes in UUA structure and that the clusters and cluster liaisons are becoming more point persons for assisting individual churches as well as clusters of churches.

He talked about beloved Conversations and Compassionate Communications beginning with our cluster and becoming part of our programming.

We discussed Chris' success in Op Ed pieces that average 5-6 per year and how to more easily access these. Chris will talk with the Knoxville News-Sentinel about legal ways to do this.

**Report from Ministerial Intern Committee (Elnora) (please see her report):**

The Ministerial Internship Committee, looking to the next intern possibility, is suggesting that the church provide \$250 per week to cover the first year of an internship. This is the Committee's way to be forward thinking and acting in advance of the need. Chris will provide additional information to the committee as to how else this is done. The proposal will be brainstormed and tweaked with additional information. Crafting the type of internship we will offer is still to be determined. For instance it may be that an intern would take responsibility of Membership Coordinator. Or would be the person who introduces folks to UU.

**Report from the Treasurer (Joe):**

The Board perused the written document. Tomorrow Joe and Kathy will meet with the Gift Card Committee (see previous minutes' notes). Part of what they will discuss are expiration dates and drops in value over time, something new to many of us at this meeting. We are to have 3 months of operating expenses as per policy. We currently have 2.3 months. This is due to removing restricted funds and gift cards, as both were appropriately removed from this category to more accurately reflect reality.

**Update on Gift Cards (Kathy & Joe):**

See immediately above.

**Update on Long-Range Plan (Linda, John):**

Linda is out of town but Kathy presented the need for a Long-Range plan. Board members involved to date are John, Lance and Linda. Chris is also involved.

**Action Items-**

Kathy wants Board members to take meetings seriously and would like to set parameters for excused absences.

Kathy and Joe will meet with Gift Cards Committee.

Maureen McBride is looking for an auditor.

Chris to investigate how to legally disseminate his Op Ed pieces post newspaper publication.

Opening & Closing Words for Nov 15 - Mary Jo Holden