

TVUUC Board Meeting

January 22, 2020

Board Members Present: Matthew Blondell; Eddie Chin; Denise Coleman (President) ; Debbie Ellis; Justina Hyfantis; Viren Lalka; Ginna Mashburn; Ryan McBee; Wendy Syer; Erven Williams; Alice Woody

Ex Officio/Visiting: Chris Buice; Claudia Pressley; Taylor Thomas

Music Director

Alison Mann is scheduled to begin her duties as Music Director on February 1. After she arrives, she will participate in the search for a new accompanist/ organist, in hopes that someone can begin in March. Until then, Chaz Barber will serve as accompanist.

Stewardship Committee and Campaign

Taylor Thomas reported that the pledge packets are being prepared and will be sent out soon. The pledge campaign will officially begin on February 16, with a request that all pledge cards be completed by February 23. In addition to a letter reminding recipients of TVUUC programs and achievements, the packet will, this year, include some suggestion for giving amounts, but will not use the previous “fair share giving” guide, and it will be stressed that even a small contribution is appreciated. Each packet will also include a personalized statement of the amount pledged last year by that person.

This year, the official pledge period will be one week only, from February 16 to 23. However, some people, including Board members, will be contacted and encouraged to pledge before February 16, to give the pledge campaign some momentum before it begins. Personal testimonials on Sunday mornings will continue until the week of the pledge campaign period.

Board Members may be called on to assist in calling or e-mailing people who have not yet pledged by February 23. Board Members are also urged to volunteer as “Ambassadors” who can place messages on social media sites, encouraging pledges.

Jody Hamilton has designed a new T-Shirt for the Pledge Campaign. Proceeds from T-shirt sales will help to offset the cost of the campaign.

Financial Report

Viren Lalka (Treasurer Elect) gave the financial report, in Robby McMurry’s absence.

Spending so far this fiscal year continues to be less than the amount budgeted. It was noted, in particular, the cost of utilities has been significantly below the budgeted amount; this may be due, in part, to recent updates to the heating and cooling system. Total expenditures for Building and Grounds for the first part of the year have been about \$15,000 less than the budgeted amount. Before the new fiscal year begins, they will decide which of several projects from their “Wish List” should be funded. This may include some improvements to the parking lot.

It was noted that the balance in the Auction account only reflects amounts paid through December. This balance will change as bills continue to be paid.

The question was raised again about changing banks. Claudia promised to look into possible banks.

Strategic Planning

Denise reported that a new task has been added in *Basecamp*. Focus groups will be formed to represent the following three groups of church friends and members:

1. New and prospective members
2. Youth leaders
3. Long-term members

Participants will be asked to identify:

- Which TVUUC programs should be continued
- Which (if any) should be discontinued
- What new programs they would like to see started

In- person meetings will be held with these focus groups (probably by the end of February), but others will be contacted by phone, email or video conferencing if they cannot make in-person meetings.

The Strategic Planning Committee also plans to contact local businesses and organizations that share our social justice agenda, to seek financial support for TVUUC. Denise and A.B. Coleman, and Ginna Mashburn will be working on this project.

It was suggested that TVUCC could create a Social Justice or Humanitarian Award for someone in the Knoxville community, and sell tickets for an awards dinner as a fundraiser (similar to the Community Shares Dinner.)

Miscellaneous

- The Board and Program Council will host the annual Ruth Martin Chili Dinner and Games Party on February 1. Board members signed up to bring food and drink items, and to bring and/or organize games. Claudia promised to send out a sign-up sheet to Board members and Program Council to confirm our planned contributions. Robby will bring recorded music. 41 people have signed up and paid for the dinner. Denise promised to write an article for the newsletter inviting others to come and pay at the door. Board members were reminded to arrive by 4:00 pm and to make sure the kitchen and Fellowship Hall have been cleaned before we leave.
- The question was raised about changing the date of the Church auction to early November in 2020. The December date can be difficult for auction organizers, staff, and can also reduce attendance due to conflict with other holiday parties and events. Denise will discuss this question with the 2019 and 2020 Auction Chairs. The Board had no objection to a November auction date. Claudia did mention that we need to coordinate with the Art Committee which is scheduling Art Exhibits in the lobby, and it was suggested that we have the auction after Election Day.
- Board members were reminded to give Debbie Ellis a contribution for the basket that was assembled for the 2019 Auction.
- The Endowment Committee has requested that the Nominating Committee stress to potential committee members the need to attend all committee meetings, if at all possible.

Submitted by Wendy Syer, Secretary to the Board.

2/3/20