

Unitarian Universalist Society of Mill Creek
Minutes of the May 14, 2013
Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Attendees: Tina Guerrette, Mike Hilgart, Brenda Levin, Susan Klugerman, Doris Roth, Mary Pat Knauss, Paul Hull

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm.
Susan Klugerman lit the chalice.

April 16 meeting minutes were acknowledged and approved electronically prior to the meeting.

Review of Rev. Hull's performance relative to 3 and 6 month goals were discussed.

- UUSMC has been experiencing a decrease in average Sunday attendance year-over-year for the last 4 or 5 years. Since Paul's arrival in September, this decreasing attendance trend has been reversed. Nonetheless, the board and Paul expressed some disappointment that membership and Sunday Service participation have not increased even more significantly.
- Paul met the expectation that he meet with all committees in the first 3 months, and has worked primarily with the Strategic Planning Committee and the Caring Connection in the past year.
- There was some concern that the Intergenerational services that Paul instituted were not well received by some congregants. Paul said that he had received some positive comments about the Intergenerational Services and that those dissatisfied with the intergenerational services needed to be encouraged to speak with Paul directly as he needed feedback to improve the worship experience for all. Opinions for improving the experience for all congregants included more child and young adult participation, (e.g., offering collection, greeters, music) and perhaps reducing the number of Intergenerational services to a few each year.
- Paul expressed that few congregants take advantage of open office hours, but he finds that he is able to make connections after Sunday services. He also has made some visits to members' homes.

The Board would like to survey the congregation in June. The purpose of the survey is to get congregational feedback on Rev. Hull's first year of ministry and an assessment of church leadership. Comments and suggestions will also be encouraged. This questionnaire would be prepared collaboratively between the Board and Paul.

The Board discussed dormant committees and member vacancies. Although all of our committees are necessary for the growth and success of UUSMC, it was agreed that we focus on ensuring that core committees are functioning until after we complete the Strategic Planning process. Committees/programs will grow out of the strategic planning process and will result in a unified direction. Paul said that there are two broad categories of committees: (1) program committees and (2) administration and support committees. The core program committees are Sunday services, religious education, caring, and social action. The core administrative and support committees are finance and membership.

The core committees identified by the board were:

- Sunday Services
- Social Action
- Finance
- Membership/Greeters
- Religious Education
- Caring Committee

Adam Kegley visited the meeting for the purpose of discussing the Finance committee's budget stance. He expects that the 2012-2013 budget deficit will be about \$8,000, well better than the forecasted \$30,000. The improvement was due to better than expected pledge collections and Service auction results.

The Board accepted the 2013-2014 budget as proposed by the Finance committee. The budget has an estimated deficit of \$18,000. The budget is based on 95% collection of Member pledges, 2.5% increase in staff salaries, and flat operating expenses. Adam will present next year's budget to the membership during the annual meeting on May 19.

Discussion on Board statement of Committee Range of Authority was tabled until next meeting when Matt Doty will be present.

Paul is seeking a chair for the Caring Connections Committee under the Caring Community umbrella.

The Board believes that discussion regarding changes in the Sanctuary seating would be best served as a topic for the Sunday Services Committee.

The proposal from Jamie Kegerise to postpone the 2013 In-Gathering service until Sept. 15 was approved. UUSMC members will be encouraged to participate in the 9/11 Unity Walk to be held in Washington DC on September 8. The Board feels that the Unity Walk is an excellent opportunity for a shared spiritual experience.

The following positions will be vacated by members this year. The Board is pursuing several actions to replace them.

- Membership Committee Chair
- Grist Editor
- Pledge Giving Lead Organizer
- Web designer
- Social Action Committee Chair
- Service Auction Lead Organizer

The 2013-2014 Nominating Committee is composed of Tom Hartline, Phil Lowe and Susan Klugerman.

Annual meeting has been well planned by Tina Guerrette. She will lead the meeting on May 19.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

This year's last Board meeting will be held on June 18. There will be no meeting in July. The first meeting for the 2013-2014 year will be held on August 20 with new members in attendance.