

UUSMC Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2014

Attendees: Tina Guerette, Adam Kegley, Jamie Kegerise, Brenda Levin, Mary Pat Knauss, Jeanne Hanson, Tracy Morgan, Matt Doty, Mike Hilgart, Greg Pelley, Ivonne Antongiorgi

- I. As we lit the chalice, Rev. Pelley opened with a reflection about what we take with us into each day.**
- II. The board expressed appreciation for the submission of monthly updates from several committees. Please see reports below.**
- III. JPD sent a letter of appreciation for our participation as Full Fair Share Congregation**
- IV. The board has authorized a \$1000 in additional compensation to Rev. Pelley in recognition that throughout his 5 months as consulting minister he has been working more than the ¾ time for which he has been paid and has guided us through difficult situations.**
- V. Minister's Report**
  - a. Rev. Pelley submitted a written report detailing average attendance in both services and RE, recent discussions about and plans for RE, planned themes for the upcoming church year, plans to offer regional OWL training at UUSMC, plans for expanding future participation in GA, administrative and staff issues and expanding collaborations with UUFN.
  - b. Rev. Pelley will be assembling a committee on ministry to perform several functions over the next three years required as part of his preliminary fellowship with the UUA. The board will propose two names and Greg will propose three names for a committee to be formed in fall.
  - c. Rev. Pelley would like to assemble an ad hoc committee of 3-5 people to prepare congregational safety and crisis contingency plans. Jeanne Hanson and Tracy Morgan volunteered to join the team.
  - d. Plans for next year include a focus on learning about the congregation's history, story and dreams. Rev. Pelley will lead two sessions of two small groups on "Finding our stories" and "Listening to our lives."
  - e. Rev. Pelley will meet with Stefanie and Debby to make sure they understand the new retirement plan options. Adam and Brenda volunteered to help as needed.
- VI. Facilities/Maintenance items**
  - a. Foundation perimeter soil renewal proposal - \$860 – Dick will work with Richard Lyon to assess the urgency of this work and decide if it can be deferred.

- b. Concrete repairs – planned with Richard Lyon. Expenses will be covered by the committee annual budget.
- c. Until a more comprehensive policy is in place, the board requires that volunteers must be 18 years old to work alone with individuals on any church project, including facility repairs and maintenance. Youth under 18 are welcome to participate with their parent's permission AND supervision by at least two adults (over 18).

## **VII. Treasurer's Report / Finances**

*The board reviewed: 1) June 9 2014 UUSMC Finance Committee Minutes, 2) UnitarianuniversalistChurchOptionINew (sound system contract)*

- a. We anticipate we will finish the fiscal year without having to draw from our reserves. However, pledges are expected to come in below budget. Non-pledge income was above budget.
- b. We have received the contract for the new sound system (\$4892). Tina will sign and return.
- c. Mike will organize a Sunday counting schedule through end of August.

## **VIII. Signage**

- a. Rev. Hull's name needs to be removed from one existing sign and replaced with Rev. Pelley's.
- b. This issue and the possibility of enlarging our signs are referred to the publicity committee (Andy Levin)

## **IX. Committee vacancies**

- a. Finance: Dick Cronin volunteered to join as a member. Sharon Hilgart will stay on. We are still looking for a chair for this committee and several candidates were discussed. Rev. Pelley suggested we should consider clarifying the primary mission and function of this committee and what the authority of the committee is relative to the board. The board agreed that the primary committee function is to monitor the congregation's financial health and advise the board on the fiscal implications of potential actions. This relationship has worked relatively well historically. The board further clarified that the finance committee has the authority to sign contracts and make payments on expenditures already approved by the board.
- b. Facilities Rental: We are looking for a replacement for Susan Klugerman.

## **X. Social Justice committee**

- a. Report and new mission statement included below.
- b. The committee has asked to move forward with Big Brothers Big Sisters Clothing Bin proposal on a trial basis. They believe this partnership is in line with their mission statement. The committee will make sure notice is given to members either via an email or article in the Grist so everyone is aware before the bin is placed. **The board approves signing the**

**agreement with Big Brothers Big Sisters. Tina will sign on the congregation's behalf. The board plans to reevaluate the arrangement in six months.**

**XI. Delmarva Cluster updates**

Tina, Greg, Jamie, MQ Riding, Craig Andersen and Stef Anderson are working with the organizing committee. The committee will be working on coordinating food donations.

**XII. Tina moves, Jamie seconds Jeanne's appointment as liason to the Religious Education committee.** Jeanne will locate and forward recent summaries from the committee meetings.

**Music committee report**

Submitted by Heather Doty

1. Sound System Update:

- Pending board approval of the final contract we expect work to be completed by mid-July.
- We are working on putting together a team to be trained to use and maintain the sound system. Training will occur in August.
- We will purchase a digital recorder to podcast Greg's sermons.

2. Concert Series

- After two years' worth of successful ad hoc concerts (e.g. Sunna Gunnlaugs, Roy Zimmerman, A Cappella Pops), music committee members are enthusiastic about implementing a regular UUSMC concert series, tentatively to be called the **Kaleidoscope Concert Series**, starting fall 2014.
- Dates, times, and ticket prices will be determined on a concert-by-concert basis.
- Standard agreement with performers is a 70/30 split with any costs off the top.
- A diverse lineup of performers will be confirmed by the end of summer so that the series can be advertised as a whole. Preliminary thoughts/leads for 2013-2014:
  - OCT- Tim Farrell, guitar October 18 (already preliminarily confirmed)
  - DEC- A Cappella Pops Dec 13 (already preliminarily confirmed)
  - FEB- kids' concert, perhaps Alex and the Kaleidoscope Band
  - MAR- perhaps ShamRogues, Irish band
  - APR- Catherine Marie Charlton's Jazz Trio (already preliminarily confirmed)
  - other ideas for future concerts include- classical, Pegasus Trio, Jazz Vespers, Barely a Moment cover band, Lois Young- children's

**Social Justice Committee**

Submitted by Roberta Headley

Minutes for Social Justice Meeting on June 1st, 2014

Members present: Matt Nolan, Doris Roth, Kathie Stamm, Ed Leung, Ivonne Antongiorgi, Jack Guerin, Lauri Rickard, Chitra Vaidyanathan, Greg Pelley, Ann Roschinsky, and Roberta Headley

Social Justice Mission statement (new): We organize to address unmet Social Justice needs in our community, nation and wider world through a balanced mix of Service, Education, Advocacy and Public Witness. We engage the congregation in activities and partner with relevant individuals, groups and organizations.

\*The first order of business was to discuss the Share our Plate Charities for next year. Roberta read the three which have already been on for three years and by custom are slated to go off the list for next year: Pathways to Wholeness, YWCA Homelife and Tree Tops Rescue. The ones still on the list would be Pacem in Terris, which has been on two years, and Premier Charities and Kennett Adult Literacy which have only been on one year. We try to have some in PA and some in DE.

\*A discussion ensued on a possible three new additions, plus whether they should be local charities as in the past, ie DE and PA. Or whether we should consider more world wide charities. Many were discussed: Jack proposed one in Nicaragua regarding education for the very poor children, Stephen Petersen had emailed us about one in Cambodia to help children and women, Chitra discussed the book, *Half the Sky* by Nicholas Kristof on the plight of abused women and children. Chitra proposed introducing some of the global needs during a service, and following it up with a fundraising event involving food, dancing, etc. Greg said he had a date where that would fit, September 28. He told us that this year there will be a theme for each month and the one in September is "Stories." The first Sunday of each month will introduce the theme during a Multigenerational Sunday. Stefanie Anderson would like a member of our committee to visit the RE classes the last Sunday of each month to involve them in a follow-up to the theme in some way. Chitra also suggested that we let organizations use our facilities for meetings.

\*The Elimination of the Death Penalty in Delaware was mentioned and we plan to continue to provide information and awareness of this issue. Greg pointed out that not everyone in our congregation may agree on this issue.

\*Local charities were suggested to fill the three available slots:

1. Matt Nolan would like to see us support Limen House. They help house recovered addicts and alcoholics in houses to transition back to society.
2. Ann Roschinsky recommended Planned Parenthood.
3. Ivonne Antongiorgi suggested the Latin American Community in downtown Wilmington who provide a variety of help.

\*We discussed the bin for the collection of clothes by Big Brothers and Big Sisters. We felt we should recommend it to the board and see how it goes. Lauri will take our proposal to the board. Lauri Rickard will continue to do Heifer. We will continue to support the Food Bank of Delaware with Souper Bowl Sunday. Lauri also mentioned that if people wish all the money in their check which they put in the collection plate to go to the Share our Plate Charity, they can write that on the memo line.

The next meeting of the Social Justice Committee was scheduled for Sunday, August 10th, after church. The School Supply drive will be going on, and the service in September needs to be planned.