

First UU Board of Trustees

MINUTES – Monthly Meeting

February 22, 2006

Present: Trustees: Gretchen Faulstich, Chair; Doug Zelinski, Vice Chair; Debra Boyd, Treasurer; Jim Bailey, Secretary; Pam Argus, David Carr, Barb Fisher, Bill Fullarton, Michael Greenman, Dan Hronek; Will Delphia, Youth Representative; Karen Dawson, Past Chair.

Not Present: Ben Blee, Evonne McNabb.

Ex Officio: Mark Belletini, Senior Minister; Rachel Tayse Baillieul, Co-Director of RE; Cindy Dillard, Co-Director of RE and Interim Church Administrator.

1. Opening Words and Lighting of Chalice Introduction and Check In

Jim read a poem by Mary Oliver, and all present checked in.

2. Review of Agenda; Minutes of January 21 Meeting

No changes to the published agenda. Jim amended the minutes, adding this statement regarding the Social Justice Committee proposal about adopting the food pantry in Mineral, Ohio: A subgroup of Social Justice is to continue work on the proposal and report back to the Executive Committee. Doug moved and David seconded that the minutes be approved as amended. Motion carried.

3. Discussion of the Greeting Experience

Doug asked Board Members and Staff who have done informal greeting before and after services for comments. Pam, Bill, Michael, David and Cindy spoke about their positive experiences in talking with newcomers.

4. Treasurer's Report

Debra circulated the report on income and budget comparison through Jan. 31. Expenses for utilities, for building and grounds, and for maintenance all are exceeding budgeted amounts. Another area of concern is mortgage payments. Debra noted that there are discrepancies between the approved budget and the budget as entered in Peachtree software. Consequently, Finance Committee has asked for a line-by-line review of the budget, which is being undertaken. Finance Committee would also like a line-by-line review of pledges as the report of the Development Committee differs from information recorded by the software, Church

Windows. Gretchen suggested that the bookkeeper Joe Voltolini be asked to make the comparison.

5. Reports from Council, Committees and Ad Hoc Groups

Doug reported that Church Council is reviewing the information about committees and church groups presented at the midyear meeting.

Karen reported that the Leadership Development Task Force is working to integrate leadership training into present structures and is drafting a three-year plan. Proposed changes to the Nominating Committee are making their way through the appropriate committees.

6. Recruitment for Key Positions

Michael reported that he is meeting with a group to revitalize the Denominational Connections Committee, which has been inactive. The group plans to help with the OMD meeting on April 21-22. The Board discussed a short list of committees currently needing leadership. Barb agreed to try to arrange a combined meeting of the Arts and Space and Building Committees after consulting with Cindy.

Gretchen asked Board members to contact her with additional suggestions for these committees.

7. Search for Church Administrator

Gretchen updated the Board on the search: 27 applications were received, and the search committee has narrowed the list. Interviews will soon begin.

8. Social Justice Committee and Allocation Process

Scott Burch, Social Justice Chair, has asked the Board to meet with a group from the committee to discuss the allocation process.

9. Staff Reports

Written reports were received from the Senior Minister, from the Interim Administrator and from the Co-Directors of RE.

Mark told of meeting with the UU student group at Ohio State University. Board members suggested ways of involving the student group (some of whom regularly attend Sunday services) in church events such as First Friday.

Rachel noted that a Nonviolent Communication Weekend is being held on March 10-11, with a leaders' session on Friday evening. Board members are encouraged to sign up and participate.

10. Development Committee

Debra gave a short report on the stewardship campaign: 120-130 pledging units are in (as of Feb. 19) and about 25 percent of those pledging have committed to the “5 by 5” plan. At this point, it is impossible to know if the amount being pledged per unit has increased.

Cindy pointed out there seems to be a misperception among some members that the “early bird” parties are selective and are meant for “big givers” rather than as a means for any member to pledge early.

Gretchen noted that the auction will be on April 1 and that auction dinners are popular fundraisers. She encouraged members to consider donating a dinner to the auction.

11. Announcements

Next Board Meeting will be March 22.

Ohio Meadville District Meeting will be at First UU Columbus on April 21-22. Volunteers for home hospitality will be needed.

12. Adjourn

Michael moved and Debra seconded that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.