

First UU Board of Trustees

MINUTES—Monthly Meeting

March 22, 2006

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

Not Present: Barb Fisher, Dan Hronek, 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.

Guests: Charlie Haldeman, Dick Dawson, Sabine Kuehn.

1. Opening Words and Lighting of Chalice/ Check In

David gave the opening reading, followed by a check in by all present.

2. Review of Agenda/ Minutes of Feb. 22 Meeting

Gretchen suggested a reordering of the agenda to accommodate Charlie Haldeman, who was present to talk about the OMD meeting.

Debra moved and Bill seconded the approval of the minutes of the Feb. 22 meeting. Motion carried.

3. Update on Ohio-Meadville District meeting

Charlie Haldeman reported on plans for the district meeting to be held at First UU on April 21-22, noting that registration materials were sent out and are also available at the church. Gretchen urged Board members to attend the meeting and also to encourage others to attend; it is the first district meeting in Columbus in several years.

Questions were raised about official church delegates to the meeting and also about the availability of funds to underwrite registration fees. The church may have as many as eight delegates.

Michael moved and Bill seconded that the Executive Committee decide who are the delegates (if more than eight apply) at the April 19 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried.

4. Heritage Year Proposal

Doug presented a “working” proposal—that “the Board, Ministers, Staff and Committees proclaim the upcoming 2006-07 church year

to be a 'Living Heritage Year,' a year to welcome and celebrate all our seniors and to lift up and celebrate our church history.”

The proposal was presented for information and discussion, not for action.

Questions were raised: about the term “seniors,” which can be a loaded term; about being inclusive, especially since some longtime members are no longer active in the church.

It was agreed that the Board supported the broad outline of the proposal and would like to move ahead with it. Doug said that Church Council has received the proposal and is ready to help coordinate the effort.

5. Treasurer's Report

Debra circulated a current report on income and expenses and noted that expenses are running ahead of the allocated budget in (1) utilities; (2) office expenses such as postage and copying; (3) building and grounds. The estimated shortfall for the end of the year is 8,000 to 12,000 dollars.

Debra reported that in regard to the mortgage National City Bank had erred in not changing a variable interest rate to a fixed interest rate 18 months ago. Consequently mortgage payments were incorrectly allocated to interest and principal. The bank has not yet given its final report on the situation. There may be a refund or funds may be reallocated by the bank. No Board action was called for at this time.

Gretchen stated that the Finance Committee has asked that the church delay paying denominational support.

6. Reports from Council, Committees and ad hoc groups

Doug reported that Church Council had discussed the Heritage Year proposal.

Michael reported that Social Justice is discussing the possibility of restructuring, giving the committee a tighter structure and more focus. The group plans to look at other churches and how they organize Social Justice and will look for models in other large churches. Social Justice continues to think of how to develop a project for the whole church.

7. Continuing the Co-DRE position/Personnel Committee

Dick Dawson, Chair of the Personnel Committee, presented from the committee, a recommendation that the church continue sharing the Director of Religious Education between two Co-Directors.

Sabine Kuehn, Chair of the Religious Education Council, presented a supporting recommendation from the council.

Questions were raised about the statement in the Personnel Committee report calling for a review next year of the shared position and how that reflects on the performance of the current Co-Directors.

Doug moved and Michael seconded that the church continue to have Co-Directors of Religious Education (without requiring a review next year). Motion carried.

Dick said that the Personnel Committee would like to recognize the non-professional staff at a future service. The Board supported that idea.

Dick said that salary recommendations from the Personnel Committee will be given to Gretchen; she will share them with the Board.

8. Update on Search for Church Administrator

Gretchen reported that the two top candidates will have another round of interviews with a decision to be made soon. She asked if the Board wanted to vote on the final choice or to delegate the decision to the Search Committee or to the Executive Committee. Ben moved and David seconded that the decision about hiring the Church Administrator be delegated to the Search Committee. Motion carried.

9. Development Committee

In the absence of a representative from the Committee, Debra noted that letters have been sent to those who have not yet pledged. Auction plans are in the final stages for the April 1 event.

10. Staff Reports

The Board received reports from the Senior Minister and from the Co-Directors of RE.

11. Announcements

General Assembly will be in St. Louis, June 21-25; and Mary Oliver will be a speaker.
The OMD meeting is April 21-22 at First UU Columbus.
Auction is April 1.

12. Adjournment

Doug moved and Ben moved that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.