

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
Board of Trustees

Minutes – Monthly Meeting

March 28, 2007

Present: Doug Zelinski, Chair; Chas Williams, Vice Chair; Jim Bailey, Secretary; Debra Boyd, Treasurer; Ben Blee, David Carr, Barbara Fisher, Judy Houston, Dan Hronek, Bill Inglis, Jim Pinkham; Gretchen Faulstich, Past Chair.

Absent: Kate Power

Ex Officio: Mark Belletini, Senior Minister; Wendy Fish, Associate Minister; Caroline Balderston Parry, Interim DRE; Michael Brennan, Church Administrator.

1. Opening Words and Lighting of Chalice

Doug opened the meeting with selections from Hildegard of Bingen and William E. Du Bois. Debra shared news of a district meeting to be held at the church on Oct. 6; and Michael shared news of a recent generous gift to the church.

2. Agenda and approval of Minutes of Feb. 28 Meeting

No changes were made to the agenda. One correction (were instead of where under #6) was offered to the minutes. Bill moved and Debra seconded approval of the minutes as corrected. Motion passed.

3. Reports from Councils, Committees and Ad Hoc Groups

Program Council – Chas had circulated minutes from the March 12 meeting, noting he was not present and that Wendy had chaired the meeting. Both Chas and Wendy reported that not many of the eligible members have been attending and that there is a sense of being in a time of transition; there is energy waiting to be tapped.

Administration Council – Debra reported that smaller groups are meeting to work on issues and tasks and the Council will meet again in April.

Chas said there is the question of where Nominating Committee belongs in the new two Council structure. Doug suggested there may be another grouping, not yet formed, that would include Executive Committee, Nominating Committee, Committee on Church Ministry, and perhaps others

Development Committee – Gretchen reported on the pledge campaign; to date a little over \$474,000 has been pledged, and canvassers are doing follow up. Commitment Sunday did not yield as many returned pledges as hoped but the campaign is moving forward. She commended Jim Pinkham for developing the online pledge form, which is being used. The committee is moving forward with the Planned Giving effort this spring.

Treasurer's Report – Debra spoke about the handout, “Timeline for Developing the 2007—2008 Church Budget—First UU Columbus,” which gives dates and tasks. She noted that the Board will meet twice in May: on May 16 and May 30, with the latter meeting to approve a budget recommendation for the June congregational meeting.

Debra circulated income and expense statements for Feb. 28, 2007, and said finances continue to be good. The church is on target to pay the full amount budgeted to UUA and OMD (which still falls short of full fair share). She called attention to a one-page analysis of finances that Michael had prepared and distributed.

The final deadline for submitting requests for endowment funds is April 22. The deadline will be publicized through the Councils and also in the newsletter.

Music Search Committee – Doug gave an update; the job descriptions are written and will be advertised next week.

EXECUTIVE SESSION Bill moved and Chas seconded that the meeting move to executive session. Motion passed. Susan Zelinski, Chair of Personnel Committee, was invited to provide information and to answer questions. Following discussion, Bill moved and Debra seconded that the Executive Session be ended. Motion passed.

Bill moved and Barbara seconded the following: The Board of Trustees awards a \$2000 bonus to Michael Brennan for performance beyond normal expectations for a first year employee in the Church Administrator position to be paid following his one year anniversary.

Motion passed.

4. Staff Reports

Written reports were received from the Senior Minister, the Associate Minister, the Church Administrator and the Interim DRE. In amplifying his report, Mark said he and Wendy have begun talking about staff needs and agree on the need for youth ministry.

Michael said one of the part-time employees plans to leave. He commended the work of the Info-tech Committee.

Caroline distributed brochures for the spring Adult Enrichment Programs and shared a document from the Canadian Unitarian Council on lifespan learning.

5. Open Space

Results from March 3 and Multi-year Goals – Doug called attention to the 14 page report, circulated online, on the Board Retreat. This information is to be used as Board members move forward with the goals they have chosen, and also to work on topics they are interested in.

Open Space Event on April 28 – Doug outlined plans for the event and emphasized the need for Board members to help with advertising, recruiting, computer support, food, and also to participate. The event will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Debra volunteered to help with recruiting.

The plan is to have enough computers (six) so that reports can be recorded during the session. Jim Pinkham, Chas, Dan and Debra offered to help with computers and recording.

After discussion about food service during the day, Chas moved and Bill seconded that lunch be provided. Motion passed. Possibilities for lunch include working with a caterer or organizing a potluck.

Child care and programming for children were discussed but no decision was made.

Doug said Executive Committee will oversee how the day is structured and who facilitates.

6. Leadership Updates

Leadership Series – Chas reported that the series is going well, averaging 21 or 22 people a session, with one session remaining. Forty-three different people have signed up for the series.

Committee Succession – Doug emphasized that chairs need to be planning and recruiting for successors as they retire from their positions.

Three Year Timeline of Church Activities – To comply with the recently approved Space Use Policy that calls for a three year timeline, Council Chairs and Committee Chairs should be planning and building such a calendar.

7. Appointments: Chair of Social Committee

Shilah Griffeth was named as being willing to chair the Social Committee. Dan moved and Barb seconded the appointment of Shilah. Motion carried.

8. Attendance at GA and Other Events and Trainings

Doug asked that people let the Executive Committee know of plans to attend General Assembly and other events. Debra said the Ohio Meadville District hopes to announce its new Executive Director at the District Assembly, April 21-22. First UU may send as many as eight delegates to the assembly.

Caroline pointed out scheduling conflicts between local church events and district events, noting that district events are not regularly entered on the church calendar. Michael said he will work to put district events on the church calendar.

9. Thank You's

Jim Bailey reported that Michael has asked that notes be sent to Jerry Newkirk and his friend Ralph, who brought his bucket truck, for changing the lights in the parking lot.

Caroline suggested thanking Sabine Kuehn, who is ending her term as Chair of RE Council, and Susan Roscigno, who is ending her term as Chair of the Sunday School Program. David Easter, and Julie Henderson, the new Co-Chairs of the Sunday School Program, will also be thanked.

10. Announcements

Doug provided a 4-page handout, “A Look at the Dashboard at Unity Church,” including information about finances, membership, and congregational self-descriptions. Wendy said some of the information seems to relate to the Committee on Church Ministry, and it was suggested that there should be Board liaison to that committee.

Executive Council will meet on April 11, May 9, and May 23.

Board will meet on April 25, May 16 and May 30.

11. Adjournment

Chas moved and Bill seconded that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.